SPORTS / A27

Vengeful Green Archers nip Blue Eagles, clinch UAAP semis bonus

BUSINESS / B1

World oil prices hit $81/barrel; Opec boosting output too late

ENTERTAINMENT / E1

Why KC has come home after graduating in Paris

WORLD/ A25

Nerds back 'manga' comic book/animé lover as Japan's new prime minister

GMA: Take case to SC, where there's no politics

By Michael Lim Ubac and Riza T. Olchondra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS ordered Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza to bring the government case in the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) to the Supreme Court, where "there is no politics."

GMA: TAKE/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, September 19, 2007 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 283 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

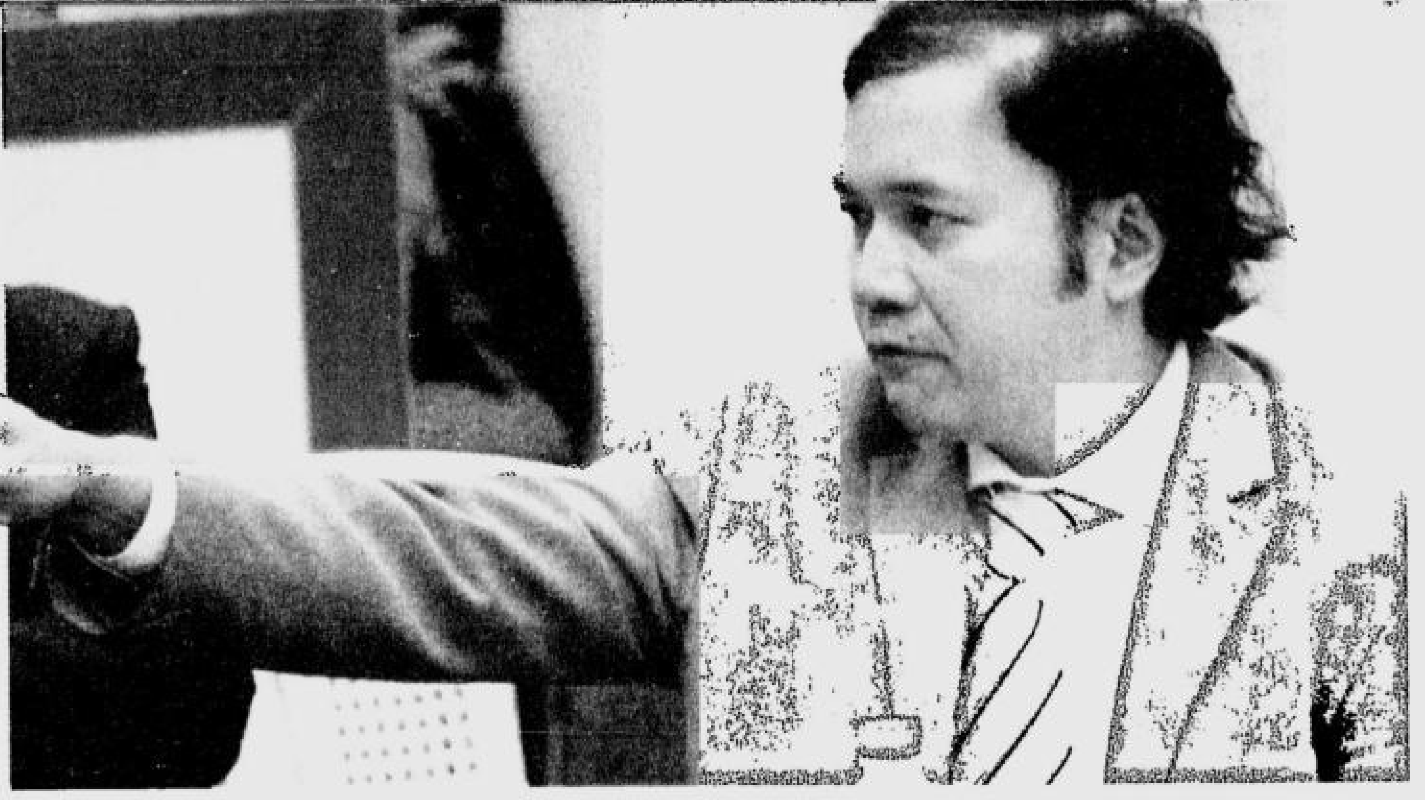
Brave kidney donor was afraid of needle

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jeannette I. Andrade

TAKOT
PALA SA
INJECTION!

IT WASN'T SO MUCH THE thought of losing one of his kidneys as the pain he felt when nurses jabbed needles into his arms that made Felicito "Muray" Gu-

BRAVE/ A20



IN YOUR FACE
"Back off," Jose de Venecia III quotes First Gentleman Mike Arroyo as having told him in March at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club while pointing a "menacing" finger about two inches from his face. This was De Venecia's most explosive disclosure to the three Senate committees at the start of their probe on Tuesday into the ZTE-NBN deal. Sen. Jinggoy Estrada called the "mystery man" "mister ni ma'am." ROGER MARGALLO

Mike A is mystery man

'He tried to bully me to back off NBN-ZTE deal'

By Dona Pazzibugan and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUSINESSMAN JOSE de Venecia III yesterday named Jose Miguel Arroyo as the "mystery man" who supported the controversial $329-million broadband deal with China, thrust his finger inches away from his face and barked at him to "back off" from the deal.

On live television, De Venecia demonstrated at a Senate inquiry how the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo supposedly tried to browbeat him during a meeting at a golf clubhouse attended by Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., the alleged broker of the China project.

"He asked me to back off [from the National Broadband Network project]," De Venecia, head of a rival firm, told the senators, recounting the meeting at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City in mid-March.

De Venecia is the founder of

MIKE A/ A12

COMFORT ZONE: After a hectic day in Dipolog on Monday inaugurating projects and meeting with local officials, President Arroyo hies off to Dakak beach resort in Dapitan to spend the night. A walk through the white sands of Dakak is a refreshing diversion from the affairs of state. EDWIN BACASMAS

JDV III very much JDV son; set to marry Dec.

By Norman Bordadora

THE POLITICIAN IN THE FAther is so much evident in the son in the way Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, 44, addressed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as "my President" in yesterday's nationally televised Senate hearing.

This wasn't lost on Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Lacson suggested that given the shenanigans surfacing in connection with the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project with China, shouldn't the namesake son of Speaker Jose de Venecia reconsider his show

JDV III/ A20

What did GMA know, when did she know it?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHAT DID THE PRESIDENT KNOW and when did she know it?

A businessman's disclosure that the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo intervened in favor of China's ZTE Corp. has spurred the Senate to look into how deeply she was involved in the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

The First Couple and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., during a 10-city visit to China, were invited by the ZTE president to play golf in Shenzen where Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos was one of the guest players, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, a son of the Speaker, said in his testimony at the Senate yesterday.

Based on his father's account, ZTE offered to build a broadband network on a government-to-government basis, to which Ms Arroyo suggested that the company follow "Joey's proposal," a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme, the younger De Venecia said.

Amsterdam Holdings Inc., the company founded by the younger De Venecia, sub-

WHAT/ A10

Doc, lawyer say FG trip set long before Senate probe

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora

JOSE MIGUEL ARROYO JUST WANTED TO have a two-week vacation in Europe with his friends and was not trying to evade the Senate investigation where he was linked to yet another graft-ridden deal, his heart surgeon said yesterday.

DOC, LAWYER/ A12

Senators fear 'dynamic obsolescence'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

"DYNAMIC OBSOLESCENCE."

This was how Sen. Rodolfo Biazon summed up the apprehension of the Senate committees looking into the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

In the fast-changing field of information and communication, nothing remains the same in the short term in the constant search for more efficient technology, Biazon said.

During yesterday's hearing, all

SENATORS/ A12

FG foes not surprised; karma, says Erap son

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo's husband manages to draw controversy whether in sickness or in health.

Lawmakers, most of them representatives of militant party-list groups, yesterday said they were not surprised that Jose Miguel Arroyo had been implicated in yet another scandal, this time involving the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

And San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, a son of the recently

FG FOES/ A21

GMA's House allies in disarray; kin to the defense

By Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

ALLIES OF PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo in Congress were thrown in disarray following the damning testimony of businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III yesterday implicating First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo in the controversial $329-million National Broadband Network deal.

"What's going on? What's happening to our coalition?" asked Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia, 81-year-old stalwart of Ms Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party.

Garcia seemed at a loss as to the impact of the revelations of the Speaker's son on the already unsteady relationship within the ruling coalition in the House. "Let's just wait in the coming days," he said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

Garcia was not sure whether the testimony would further strain ties between the President's allies in Kampi and those belonging to the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

Majority Floor Leader Arthur Defensor of Iloilo said he did not see a realignment of forces.

"A great majority of the congressmen support both the President and the Speaker. You cannot make them form two lines with one for those supporting the President and the other, for the Speaker," Defen-

GMA'S HOUSE/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

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Second FrontPage

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6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
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AKALA KO BA AYAW N'YA?

Erap now open to pardon

WHAT'S INSIDE

'NICOLE' RAPE

SMITH

case may yet reach UN /A6

ONE IN 10

families a victim of crime – SWS /A5

NO MIDNIGHT

deal at DENR, says former usec

REYES

/A8

JAPANESE

tourist barred at airport for hurting Pinay GF on the plane /A9

FRUITS OF HOPE

President Macapagal-Arroyo tries a mangosteen that is a part of the Fruits of Hope delivery from Davao that arrived at the Villamor Airbase aboard C130 Air Force plane. The Fruits of Hope is a socioeconomic and humanitarian project that brings the farm and sea produce of Mindanao and Sulu to the retailers, vendors and consumers in Metro Manila. With her are, from left, Sen. Richard Gordon, North Cotabato Governor Jesus Sacdalan and North Cotabato Vice Governor Emmanuel Piñol. LYN RILLON

OUSTED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA, sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of plunder, said yesterday he would consider a presidential pardon that could set him free.

Estrada earlier said he would not accept a presidential pardon. But in an interview with the The Associated Press yesterday, Estrada said he would consider accepting a pardon if it did not amount to an admission of guilt and did not come with any preconditions.

It was the first time Estrada had publicly stated he was open to such a possible offer from his political nemesis, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In his interview with AP, Estrada was quoted as saying "I first have to read the fine print of any such offer."

Ms Arroyo has not yet indicated she was ready to offer him a deal but her political allies talk openly about the possibility.

Various political leaders say Estrada's acceptance of a pardon, which can only be granted by President Macapagal-Arroyo, could help ease political tensions that have gripped the country since 2001, when he was ousted in a nonviolent "people power" revolt she helped lead.

Speaker Jose de Venecia of the ruling Lakas-CMD had said he would propose an all-encompassing amnesty that would include Estrada.

Senate president Manuel Villar, in a talk with reporters in Davao City yesterday, reiterated his own call to have the convicted former president released from detention.

Villar, who ran with the opposition ticket, said Estrada's release would put "closure" to the rift between his camp and that of Ms Arroyo.

"In my view, we need to put closure to the Arroyo-Estrada problem and the final stage would be the eventual release from jail of the former President," Villar said.

He said that Estrada's conviction had clearly not put an end to what he described as a bitter chapter in the country's politics.

"The end here is not the verdict," Villar said, adding that unless Estrada is freed, the country's political situation would remain in distress.

"It's about time this country moves forward," Villar said.

Villar, who was himself instrumental in Estrada's fall from power, admitted he met with the former President on Sunday and talked about his possible release. The Senate President said the best option could be amnesty.

"It is important that (the terms) are acceptable to President Estrada," he said.

Opposition Sen. Mar Roxas filed a resolution on Monday calling on Ms Arroyo to offer a pardon to Estrada to heal political divisions.

"The grant of pardon to (Estrada) on humanitarian grounds should not in any way be construed as condoning corruption or as diminishing the legal weight of the (conviction) ruling," Roxas said.

"While our people are fragmented, they share one thing: they remain poor, and it is because our politics has failed to pay attention to them," Roxas said.

Estrada was convicted by the antigraft Sandiganbayan court on Wednesday after a landmark six-year trial on charges that he took bribes and kickbacks while in office. *Jim Gomez, Associated Press and Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

Imelda wants speedy trial

By Jocelyn R. Uy

INVOKING THE RIGHT TO A speedy trial, former First Lady Imelda Marcos yesterday urged the Sandiganbayan to conduct marathon hearings on her 10 graft cases.

The graft cases were in connection to her alleged management of five Marcos dummy foundations believed to have been used to hide $590 million of ill-gotten wealth from 1968 to 1971.

In a four-page motion filed with the antigraft court's Fifth Division, lawyers Benjamin Santos and Ray Montri Santos noted that the trial in the said cases has been ongoing for several years now and given the "slow rate" of the proceedings, it might take the court years before it could hand down a verdict.

The trial of Marcos' graft cases officially began in 2000.

"The accused is now 78 years old and has been enduring the effects for some time now of a variety of ailments which have afflicted her … [she] has reasonably been in a state of anxiety and serious concern with the pendency of the said cases …" the lawyers said.

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Department of National Defense

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The *Department of National Defense (Armed Forces of the Philippines)*, through the *General Appropriation Act* and the AFP *Modernization Program Act Trust Fund*, intends to apply the sum of ***SIXTY MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 60,824,000.00)*** being the total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the **Supply and Delivery of 76mm Cal. 62 Ammunition.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected on Bid opening
2. The DND/AFP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the *76mm Cal. 62 ammunition Acquisition Project* of the Philippine Navy. The expected delivery of GOODS or contract duration is 270 CALENDAR DAYS as per Bidding Documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

PARTICULARS	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	ABC
76mm Ammunition	720 rounds	Php 60,824,000.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No 9184 (R A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R A 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from DND Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8.00AM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Friday excluding holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 25,000.00)**. The method of payment will be on cash basis only The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
6. The AFP/DND will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 4, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.** at the DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 18, 2007 at 2:00 P.M** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 18, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.** at the DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Only offers or bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers or their duly authorized representatives shall be entertained The GOODS should be used by the armed forces of the country of origin or by the armed forces of at least two countries in accordance with *SEC 4(b) of R.A. 7898.*
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the project pursuant to DND BAC Cir 01-2005 dtd 12 May 2005 (copy of the circular can be downloaded at the website specified below).
11. The DND/AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(Sgd) ASEC ROBERTO G NUQUI
Chairman, DND Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–September 19, 2007)

PNP wants more money for new cops

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police is seeking a budget of P883 million for 2008, documents acquired by the INQUIRER yesterday showed.

The outlay is 2.23 percent higher than the 2007 PNP budget.

The difference would cover the recruitment of 3,500 policemen, according to a briefing paper on the national crime situation dated Sept. 5.

"The hiring of additional policemen next year will improve the police-to-population ratio from 1:705 to 1:700. This is in line with the President's directive of hiring 15,000 policemen over the five-year period from 2006 to 2010 to reach the ideal ratio of 1:500," the paper said.

The increase would also be used to acquire 5,000 guns as well as patrol vehicles and to construct 24 new police stations.

"The increase in the PNP fiscal year 2008 President's budget will surely enhance the capability of the national police force," the paper said.

Deputy Director General Jesus Verzosa, PNP Deputy Chief for Operations (DCO), said the PNP had set up two model police stations in Marikina City and Marawi City.

According to Versoza, the two stations would serve as the blueprint for police station buildings across the country.

Aside from the physical look of the stations, Versoza said the PNP wanted to implement standards for police methods, systems and procedures, as well as human resource, technical and equipment capabilities.

He said these were "important factors that greatly impact on the timely and quality delivery of police service at the police station level."

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One in 10 families a victim of crime –SWS

NEARLY ONE IN EVERY 10 FAMILIES (9.6 percent) was the victim of a common crime in the first half of this year, according to a recent survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The figure is slightly higher than the 8.6 percent victimization rate reported in the same period last year but represents a general decline from a high of 14.9 percent in August 2004 and 13.2 from September 2006 to February 2007.

The least number of common crimes were reported in the Visayas, the most were in Metro Manila.

"The SWS victimization figures are much higher than the number of crimes actually reported to the police, and is highest in Metro Manila," SWS said in a statement released yesterday.

Director General Oscar Calderon, chief of the Philippine National Police, said in a meeting with police officials in La Trinidad, Benguet that their own statistics show that the country's crime rate has gone down by 6.8 percent. But he did not mention specific figures or the period of review.

Second quarter report

The SWS survey, released as the second quarter report for 2007, also found that 8.9 percent of families nationwide lost property to pickpockets, burglars or car thieves, while 1.8 percent suffered physical violence.

In Metro Manila, clearly the most crime-prone region in the country, 15 percent of families reported they had been victimized by pickpockets, 5.3 percent had their homes broken into by burglars, and 4 percent had a family member victimized by physical violence in the first six months of 2007.

About 1.8 percent of vehicle-owning families in Metro Manila had experienced car theft over the last six months. No car theft cases were found in the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Luzon was generally second to Metro Manila in the number of reported victims of crimes, with 6.3 percent saying they were victimized by pickpockets, 3.7 percent victimized by home burglars, and 2.3 percent physically hurt in common crimes.

Mindanao had the least number of pick-pocketing reports (4 percent), but was second to Metro Manila in reported home burglaries (4 percent). In terms of people physically hurt in common crimes, the war-torn southern region was second to the lowest (0.7 percent).

Last victimized

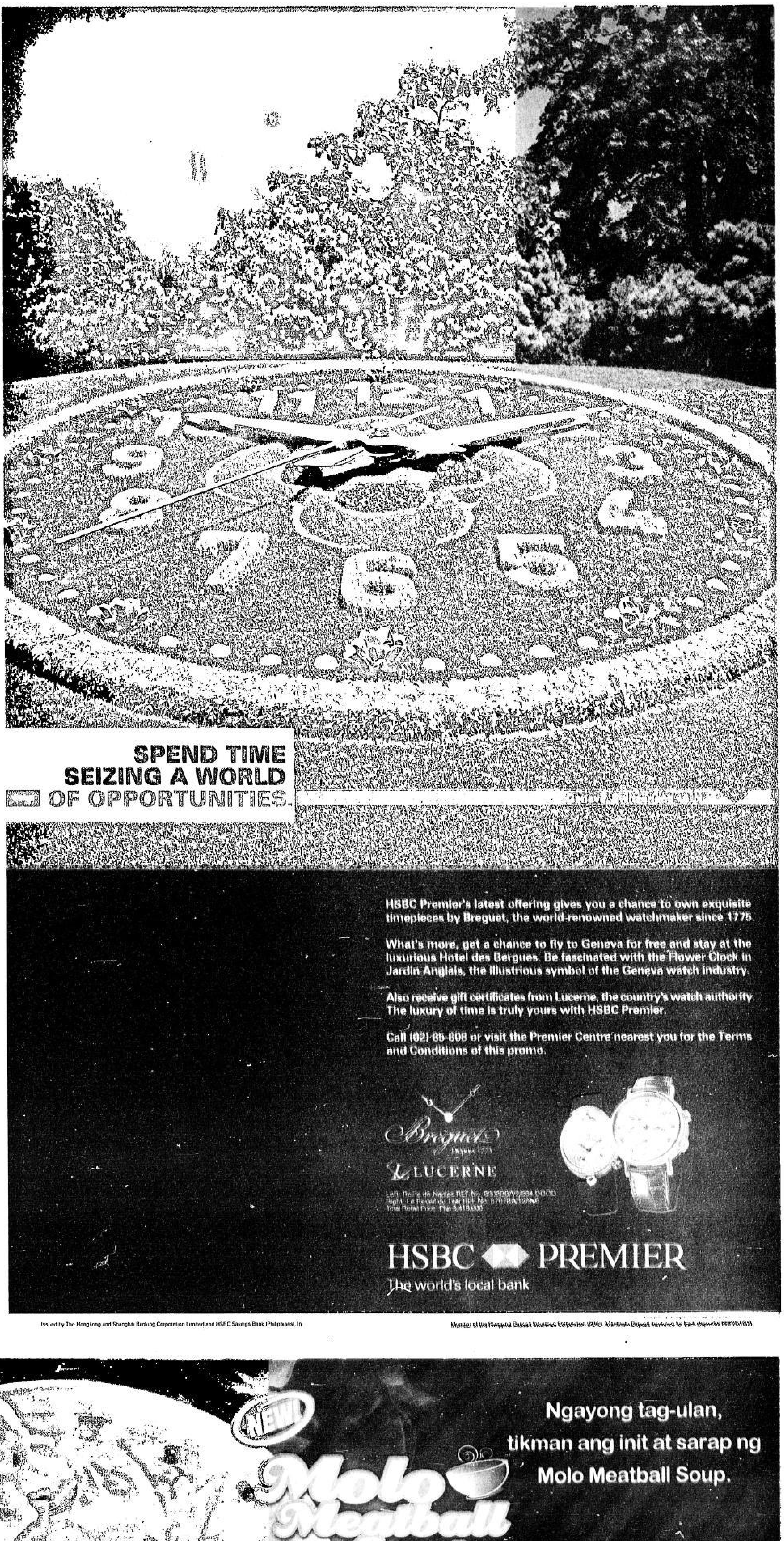
The Visayas had the lowest number of people saying they were victimized by home burglaries (1.3 percent), or physical hurt in common crimes (0.3 percent). Reports of pick-pocketing were second to the lowest at 4.3 percent.

Since 1989, SWS has been asking respondents whether any household member had been a victim of theft outside the home, a home break-in or a violent crime in the past six months. SWS added the motor vehicle theft question in 1992.

The latest survey was conducted from June 27 to 30 using face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults allocated into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It has a margin of error of plus-minus 3 percentage points.

Meanwhile, Calderon warned that law enforcement agencies and communities, particularly those in the provinces, must strengthen their ranks to combat a new kind of enemy—members of ideological groups who have turned to criminality.

In his speech during the consultative meeting between senior police noncommissioned officers and the Public Safety Mutual Benefit Fund Inc. (PSMBFI) board, Calderon said insurgency remained a problem and the 2010 deadline set by the government to end the rebellion was a tall order. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research and Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



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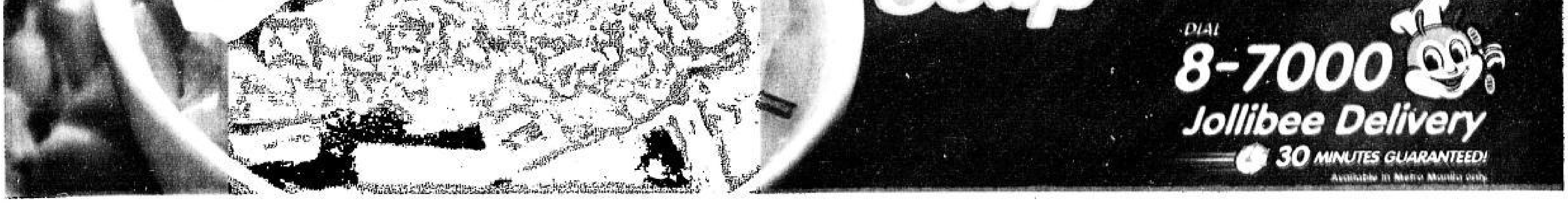

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SC denies plea of victims' pa vs 2 appellate justices

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DISMISSED the complaint of the father of two murder victims against two Court of Appeals justices he had accused of unwarranted haste and unfair treatment in hearing the appeals of his sons' convicted killers who include former Occidental Mindoro Rep. Jose Villarosa.

According to the high court, there was no proof to back Ricardo Quintos' allegations against Justices Edgardo Cruz and Noel Tijam considering, among other things, that there has been no decision yet on the appeal of Villarosa and six others to overturn their conviction for the 1997 murders of Paul and Michael Quintos, for which they were sentenced to death.

Quintos had said in his complaint that, among other things, the appellate court denied his motion to strike out the manifestation of the Office of the Solicitor General calling for the acquittal of Villarosa and Gelito Bautista, Ruben Balanguer and Mario Tobias. The appeals of the convicts were submitted for decision in April 2007.

Quintos said he had received reports Villarosa's wife, Rep. Amelita Villarosa, had been boasting in Mindoro that her husband would be acquitted by the Court of Appeals and that the court "has been bought."

He also filed a motion to inhibit justices of the CA's seventh division from hearing the case which was raffled to the division, but this was denied by the appellate court which also warned Quintos about making baseless accusations.

Among the justices who ruled on the motion was Tijam.

Cruz and Tijam denied they acted with undue haste and had treated Quintos unfairly.

Cruz said there was nothing wrong with the Solicitor General recommending the acquittal of the accused. He also said the case was deemed submitted for decision a year after it reached the appellate court.

The Supreme Court gave weight to Cruz's explanation.

'Nicole' rape case may yet reach UN

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

THE "NICOLE"-DANIEL SMITH rape case is far from over.

Although a local court last year convicted 21-year-old Smith of raping the woman the nation had come to know as Nicole, Malacañang transferred the US Marine from a city jail into American custody, citing a much-debated provision in the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

The case might yet make it to the United Nations, thanks to a recent consultation between local women's groups and the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (VAW), Dr. Yakin Ertuk.

As a Special Rapporteur, Ertuk has the mandate to gather information on cases of physical and sexual abuse against women and to recommend measures to eliminate and remedy these abuses.

Nicole's consent

"As long as Nicole consents, any individual or group can file a report to us detailing the abuse and we can bring up the matter with the State," Ertuk said.

Based on reports she has gathered, a confidential letter of allegation or an urgent appeal to the government can be sent.

In the letter, Ertuk can ask for clarification on a VAW issue, demand adherence to applicable human rights standards and call for remedial action. All letters of allegation and urgent appeals are published in an annual report that is made available to the public at the beginning of the following year.

Although complainants are not identified in the report, the name of the VAW victim and the alleged perpetrator must be disclosed, she said, as this would prevent governments from denying knowledge of the case. Both names, however, do not appear in the publicly available annual report.

Ertuk expressed optimism on the Nicole case, saying that the public support it generated impressed her.

Nicoles in history

"There has always been a Nicole throughout history, women [who have] fought patriarchy but who most often got victimized and crushed because the system is strong. What is unique in the Nicole story [who was raped in November 2005] is the mobilized reaction [to it]," Ertuk said.

Although Nicole was not present in the consultation, Monina T. Geaga, secretary general of the women's organization Sarilaya and a member of Task Force Subic, was confident she would consent to having her case submitted to the Special Rapporteur.

"*Palaban siya, eh* (she's feisty)," said Geaga, adding that Nicole's case "will serve as an impetus to call for the abrogation of the VFA."

Ertuk, who was in town over the weekend after a two-day consultation in the Asia-Pacific Region, said that her 2009 Report would open up new debate on the culture of VAW and could be "a tool of advocacy."

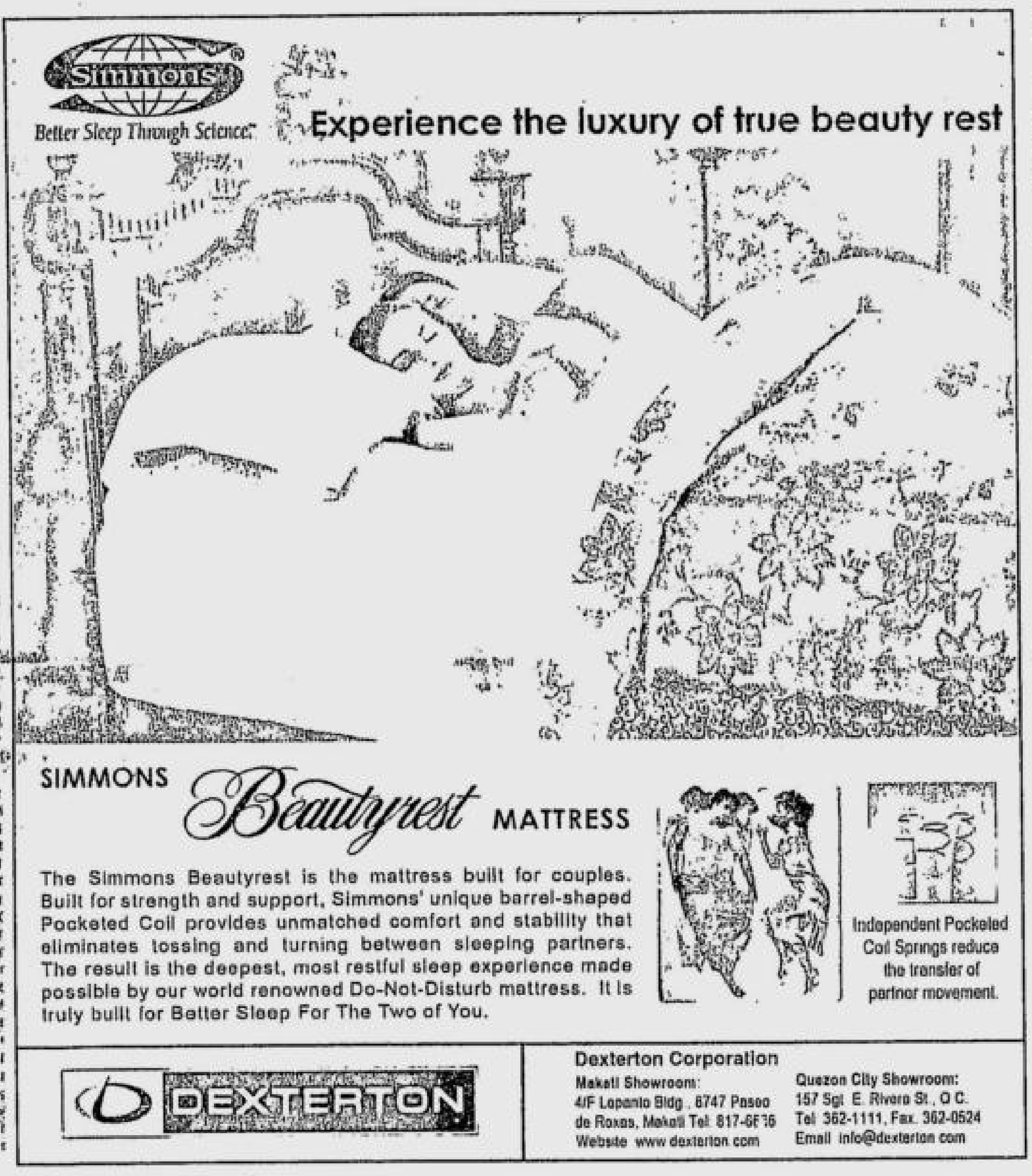
Awareness

Sometimes, even the women themselves do not consider VAW as a violation of their rights, Ertuk said, adding that the Special Rapporteur on Torture received some 300 reports last year, compared to the 80 complaints she had received. "It is still a matter of awareness," she said of women's rights.

Ertuk, who conceded that her work basically involves "naming and shaming" states that violate international conventions against VAW, said that so far, she has gotten "very positive response" from governments.

"I have been very careful about what I say and I make sure to substantiate the facts in my report, so governments usually invite me over and give me their full cooperation," she said.

(Reports and information on VAW can be e-mailed to urgent-action @ohchr.org, faxed to +41 22 917-9006, or mailed to Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations at Geneva 8-14 Ave de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.)



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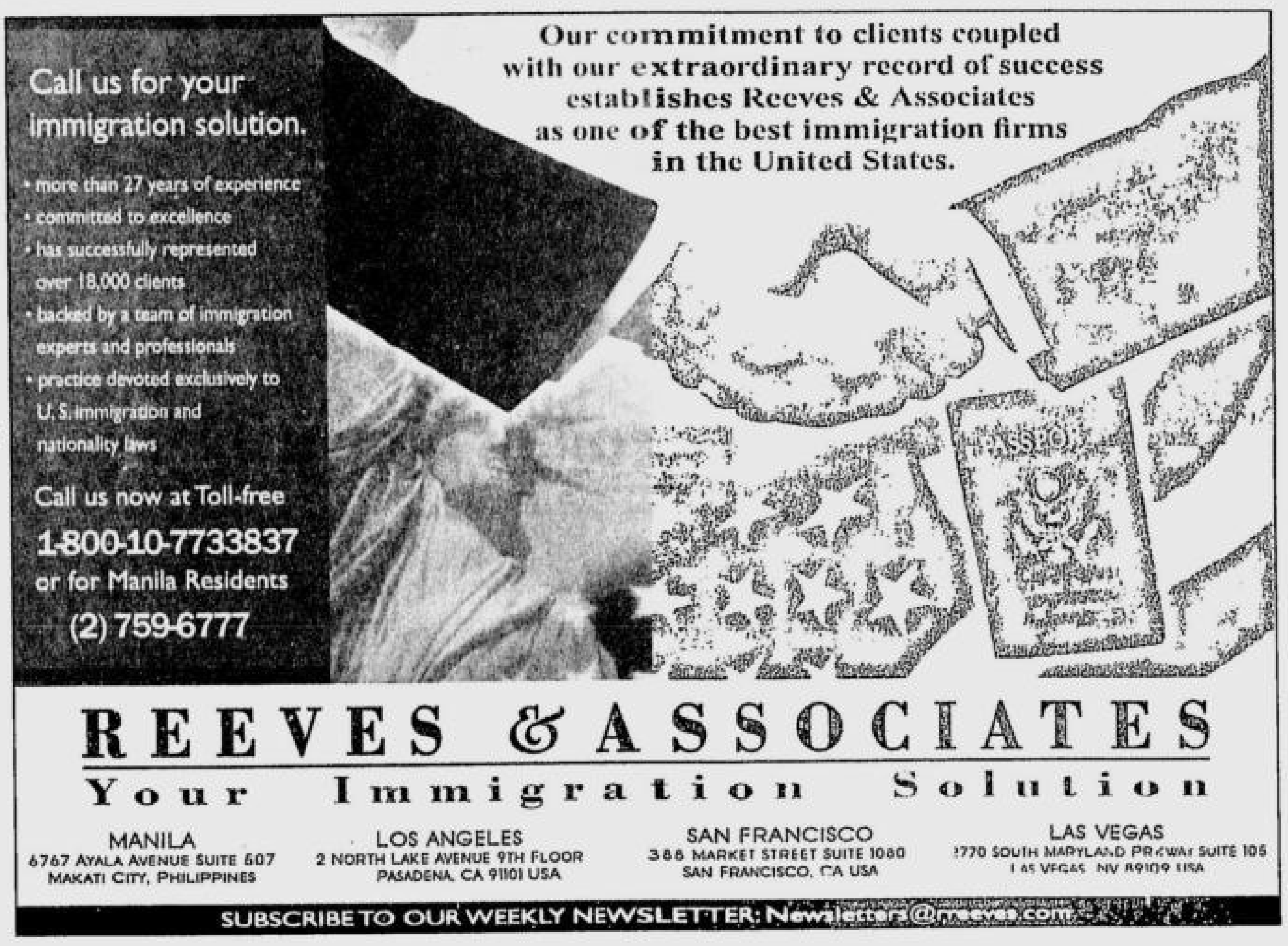

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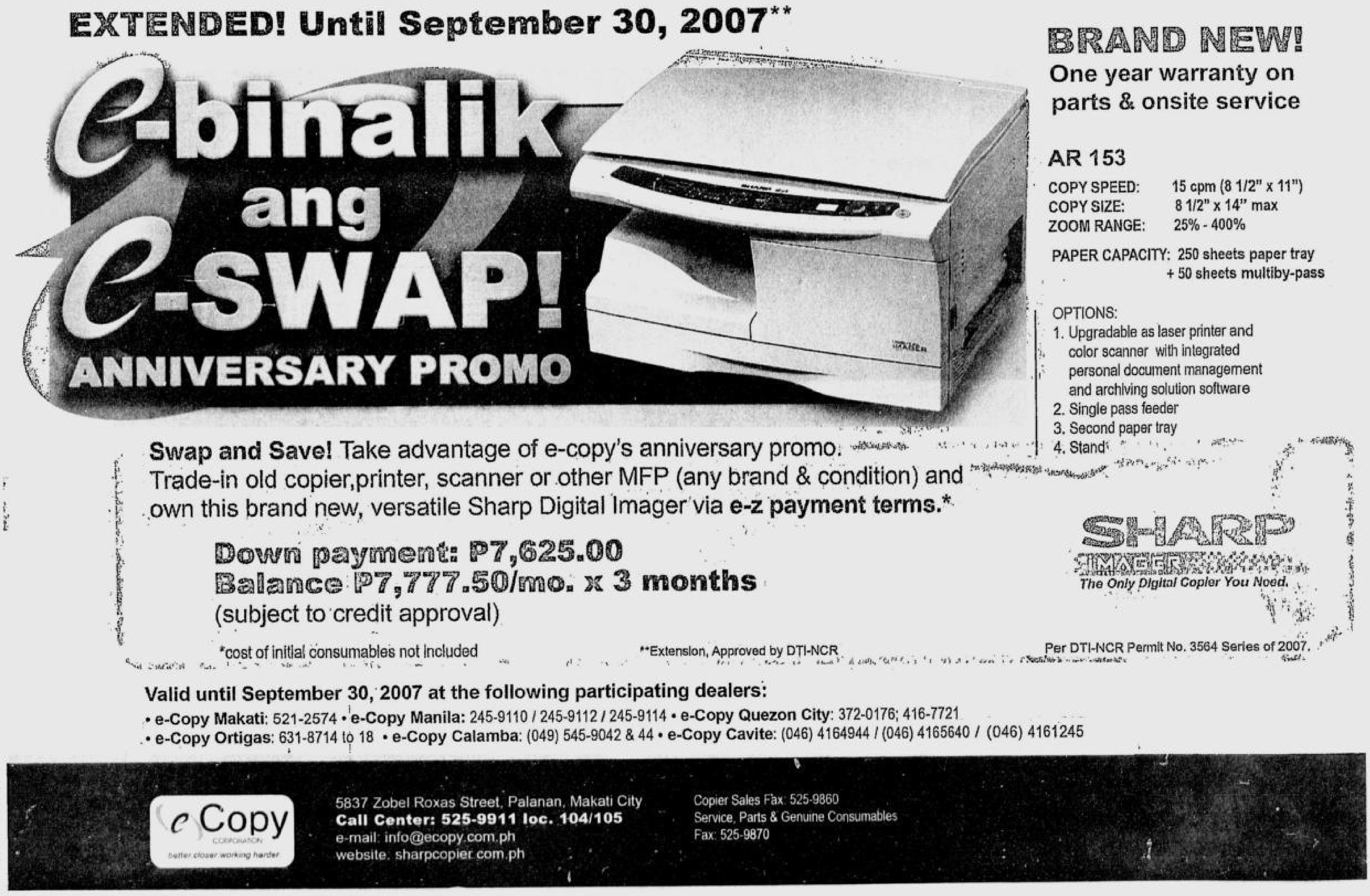

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Asia democracy meet opens today

ANWAR IBRAHIM

FORMER MALAYSIAN DEPUTY Minister Anwar Ibrahim leads a cast of Asian leaders attending the second biennial meeting of the World Forum for Democratization in Asia (WFDA) at the Philippine Plaza Sofitel Hotel starting today.

The three-day meeting will tackle the political transition in Asia and forge a consensus on how civil society groups, governments and citizens of various Asian countries could collaborate to promote democratic processes, defend human rights and assure just and equitable economic growth.

Ibrahim will keynote the conference tomorrow at 2 p.m. and discuss "Prospects and Problems for Asian Democracy."

Former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid will also have a video presentation this morning while former Cambodian Finance Minister Sam Rainsy will participate in the high-level meeting of Asian democrats and civil society figures.

Secretary Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, will welcome the delegates at 9 a.m. today along with Alexander Padilla, chair of the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), which organized the WFDA meet.

Dr. Deng-ker Lee, adviser of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, which sponsored the first meeting of WFDA two years ago, will be on hand to meet the participants.

Former President Fidel Ramos will deliver the keynote address at 10:30 a.m. and discuss the significance of the Philippine experience for democracy in Asia.

Padilla will moderate the high-level forum, with Fernando Lasam de Araujo, president of the national parliament of Timor Leste, leading the panel members. Dr. Carolina Hernandez, chair of the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS) of the Philippines; Ms Irene Fernandez, director of Tenangita of Malaysia, Rainsy, and Dr. Young-hee Shim, corepresentative of Women Making Peace of South Korea as members.

Debbie Stothard, coordinator of the Alternative Asean Network on Burma (ALTSEAN Burma) will moderate Plenary Session 1 of the meeting, with Dr. Vo Van Ai of Vietnam, Mr. Ryita Jonen of World Movement for Democracy of Japan, Ms Khin Ohmar of the Asia-Pacific Peoples Partnership for Burma and Dr. Ash Roy of the Institute of Social Sciences of India as members.

Three working groups will hear country reports on democratization of closed societies, assisting countries in transition and assisting democratic consolidation in the afternoon.

Finance usec Sevilla quits

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE UNDERSECRETARY JOHN SEVILLA, in charge of the government's privatization program under the Department of Finance, admitted yesterday that he has tendered his irrevocable resignation.

"I am resigning for a personal reason. My father is very sick," Sevilla told reporters following yesterday's press conference on the government's fiscal performance for August.

Sevilla only worked for the DOF for about a year, taking on the finance post last year from former Finance Undersecretary for Privatization, Jay Singson.

Singson, son of former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson, decided to go back to the private sector.

Sevilla's resignation came at the height of the government's efforts to push forward its privatization program to offset the expected shortfall in tax collection for the year. The government expects the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the biggest revenue earner among government agencies, to post a shortfall of P24 billion under a best-case scenario.

On track

But DOF earlier said that the government was on track in raising P70 billion in revenues from privatization this year, much higher than the earlier target of only P25 billion. The difference would more than offset the expected shortfall in tax collection, the DOF said.

There were rumors that Sevilla was having policy differences with Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza, in charge of legal matters.

Sevilla denied this, insisting that he was resigning to look after his ailing father.

Prior to his stint at the Department of Finance, Sevilla was engaged in the investment banking sector. The DOF has yet to name his replacement.

In January to August, the DOF was able to achieve the privatization of its 46-percent stake in the Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC) and raised P25 billion from the deal. The government likewise sold in July, 20 percent of its shares in the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) for about P17 billion.

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All persons, corporations or entities doing business in Quezon City are **STRICTLY REQUIRED** to issue RECEIPTS or SALES INVOICES in all their sales or commercial transactions involving the amount of ONE HUNDRED PESOS (Php 100.00) or more. Violators shall face the penalty of fine in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (Php 4,000.00) and/or IMPRISONMENT OF ONE (1) MONTH for the FIRST OFFENSE; FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 5,000.00) and/or IMPRISONMENT OF TWO (2) MONTHS for the SECOND OFFENSE; and REVOCATION OF PERMIT and/or CLOSURE OF BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT and/or IMPRISONMENT OF THREE (3) MONTHS for the THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, at the discretion of the Court.

The public is requested to report any business/commercial establishment in Quezon City violating the said Ordinance to the OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER at the Ground Floor, Treasury Bldg., City Hall, Quezon City / Tel. No. 9288336.

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No DENR 'midnight deal,' says former usec

SECRETARY ANGELO T. REYES DID NOT sign a "midnight deal" to pay US-based Emissions Technology Inc. (ETI) $1.3 million in back fees for an air-monitoring project just before he was transferred from the environment to the energy department.

This was the assertion of former Environment Undersecretary Armi Borje to belie the impression left by Reyes' successor at DENR, Secretary Lito Atienza, that a letter of understanding (LOU) signed by Reyes with ETI last July 31 made the payment a done deal.

"Secretary Reyes considers it the prerogative of Energy Secretary Lito Atienza to review the ETI project or any project of his department for that matter," said Borje yesterday in a statement.

Borje said the issue was an "old one" which DENR Director Ely Ouano had addressed in a press release on Aug. 7 when Reyes was already at the Department of Energy.

In the news release, Ouano had said: "There is nothing definite about the payment. It depends upon a showing that the ETI-Imach contractors have complied fully with their contractual obligations."

"The DENR will not make payments until such requirements and conditions have been fulfilled in accordance with the contract," Ouano said.

Since no payment to ETI was forthcoming, Borje said there was hardly any need for Atienza to say he was withholding payment of the $1.3 million pending an investigation.

Atienza is the former Manila mayor. He was named by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the environment department on Aug. 1 replacing Reyes who was appointed to Energy.

Funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the contract to put up and maintain 10 air quality monitoring stations in and around Metro Manila was signed five years ago by then Energy Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

The ADB had recommended payment of the back fees to ETI after field studies showed the monitoring stations met international safety standards, including those of the United States Environment Protection Agency, according to the DENR in another statement yesterday.

The ADB, which funded the project, retained the services of Gordon Jones of Usepa from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1, 2005, to examine the monitoring stations and the data they had generated, the statement said.

Jones submitted a report attesting to the "fitness and validity" of the monitoring stations, which was approved by Usepa director Martin Dieu, according to the DENR.

The LOU stipulated that ETI must comply with all the requirements and conditions of the contract if it hoped to get paid the $1.3 million, the statement said.

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Japanese barred for hurting Pinay on the plane

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A BLACKLIST ORDER HAS BEEN ISSUED against a 64-year-old Japanese tourist who was denied entry from the country because he hurt his Filipino girlfriend during their flight to Manila last week.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan yesterday issued an order placing Takanori Wada on the Bureau of Immigration's (BI) blacklist of undesirable aliens.

Libanan said he issued the order upon the recommendation of immigration officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia). The BI officers had barred the Japanese national from entering Manila on Sept. 12 and sent him back to Japan instead.

"By publicly displaying his disrespect for women, he exhibited an abhorrent and distasteful attitude that made him undeserving of our country's hospitality and the privilege to stay in the Philippines," Libanan said in a statement.

He stressed that as the country's gatekeeper, the BI and its officers have the discretion to deny entry to any foreigner deemed undesirable.

According to Clodualdo Penera, head of the BI's migration compliance and monitoring group (MCMG) at the Naia, Wada was immediately issued an exclusion order upon his arrival at the airport last Sept. 12.

Penera said immigration officers received a "flight disturbance complaint report" on Wada from a passenger named Martin Tomas.

Tomas recounted to BI officers that he had tried to stop Wada from hurting his female companion, identified as Mariel Yamamoto, but the Japanese allegedly snapped at him and told him to mind his own business.

Tomas' report was corroborated by other passengers who were on the same flight, prompting immigration officers to take action against Wada.

Immigration officer and MCMG member Benito Se, in his report to Libanan on the incident, said: "Conclusively, Wada has no respect for women and for other people that made him undesirable."

Prominent Quezon residents to be feted

PROMINENT SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF Quezon province, including Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, now the acting justice secretary, and Doctors Manny and Pie Calayan will be honored for their achievements in their respective fields at the 84th anniversary celebration of the Quezon (Tayabas) Association (QTA).

The celebration is scheduled on Sept. 22 at the Sofitel Westin Philippine Plaza on Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Mau Marcelo, the first "Philippine Idol" winner, and Reymond Sajor, adjudged grand champion senior vocalist of the world at the 11th World Championships of Performing Arts, will likewise be recognized.

The QTA, which was founded by the late President Manuel Luis Quezon, is known for its efforts to assist the less fortunate in the province through medical missions, scholarship grants and Christmas gift-giving.

Its presidents, fashion designer Ramil Estrope and microfinancing and property developer Cristina Vilar, are in charge of this year's anniversary ball.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 19, 2007
24th Week in Ordinary Time
Januarius

1st Reading: 1 Tim 3:1-13
Gospel: Luke 7:31-35

Jesus said, "What comparison can I use for this people? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace, about whom their companions complain: 'We piped you a tune and you wouldn't dance; we sang funeral songs and you wouldn't cry.'

"Remember John: he didn't eat bread or drink wine, and you said: 'He has an evil spirit.' Next came the Son of Man, eating and drinking, and you say: 'Look, a glutton for food and wine, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But the children of Wisdom always recognize her work."

Commentary

Who do we worship, follow and put our faith in—the one born in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, worshipped by all of heaven, preached to the nations, now in glory, and believed in throughout the world? Jesus questions the people of his day (and ours) on what we are like—peevish children squatting in public and calling out to their playmates, whining and complaining. Not a pretty picture. They neither responded to John the Baptist's call to repentance or to the Son of Man's call to sinners in mercy. They found something wrong with both of them, and they did nothing. And what about us—have we listened to John's call to change so that we can see who is coming? Have we listened to Jesus' summons to the cross and reconciliation among us?

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Inquirer reaches out to Bicol vendors

NAGA CITY—CIRILO ANTONIO, 51, of Barangay Sta. Cruz has been selling newspapers for 35 years but this is the first time he was given special attention.

"*Nakapa*checkup *na mayong bayad* (I was able to get a medical checkup without paying)," he said.

Antonio was referring to the medical mission held here on Sept. 5 at the Fatima Chapel by the Philippine Daily Inquirer and partners for newsboys and newspaper vendors—the front line of the print industry.

Their immediate families also got a free checkup.

Bong Hernandez, 35, married with two kids, said he was glad a newspaper outfit had found time to give them this much attention.

Hernandez said the free medical services meant a lot because they usually cannot afford to see a doctor.

He said he had been working as a newsboy for the past three years, earning an average of P50 a day—which was enough for him and his family to survive and live a peaceful life.

Aimed at building a productive partnership and interaction with partner dealers and civic groups, the medical mission, sponsored by the INQUIRER and Unilab, served 211 individuals who availed of free medical checkup and free medicines.

Ramon S. Sia, a newspaper dealer here, said this was the first ever medical mission for newsboys and newspaper vendors.

Sia coordinated with Fr. William Tan of Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, the Filipino-Chinese Catholic Youth, Our Lady of Fatima Association, Catholic Women's League and a group of Christian businessmen and professionals. *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

MEDICAL MISSION for newsboys and their families held recently in Naga City and sponsored jointly by the Inquirer and the United Laboratories.

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What did GMA know and when did she know it?

From page A1

mitted an unsolicited bid to undertake the NBN project. AHI lost the contract to ZTE.

"Why don't you just copy Joey's proposal—no guarantee, no debt, no subsidy and no risk to the government?" the businessman said, quoting his father on what Ms Arroyo had told Abalos.

Intimate knowledge

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said this was proof that Ms Arroyo had intimate knowledge of the details of the project.

"He (De Venecia) initially declared the President had nothing to do with the contract. But finally, in the end, he admitted that she was knowledgeable about the deal every step of the way," Lacson said.

He said that what was puzzling was that in spite of advising Abalos to follow De Venecia's proposal, there had been a lot of flip-flopping in the government position on the NBN contract.

"It was clear in the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) board meeting she wanted no subsidy, no loan, just BOT. But when [Planning] Secretary [Romulo] Neri signed it, she went to Hainan to witness its signing [on April 21] for face value. It was clear that the ZTE contract had her imprimatur," Lacson said.

Lacson said that based on De Venecia's account, Ms Arroyo knew about the project and the people who were lobbying for it even before she met with the Neda board in November 2006 to lay down the ground rules for the NBN.

'Mister ni ma'am'

At the hearing, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada [referred to the "mystery man" as the "mister *ni* ma'am"] cited several things that showed the President's fingerprints were all over the anomalous contract:

- All key individuals linked to the contract belonged to the President's inner circle.
- Ms Arroyo went to China to witness officials of ZTE and the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) sign the agreement despite the fact that her husband was critically ill at that time.
- She has refused to junk the contract despite the loud criticisms against the project.
- Ms Arroyo did not investigate how the contract was lost in a hotel in China hours after it was signed.
- She has barred her officials from discussing the project.
- Ms Arroyo asked her husband to leave the country.

Other instances

Lacson noted other instances that suggested that Ms Arroyo knew about the ZTE project.

"First, in November 2006, during a meeting on the Cybercoridor at a Neda board meeting, it was clear in the discussion that the President gave specific guidelines," Lacson said.

"She asked 'Do we need to have a government broadband,'" the senator said, quoting minutes of the Neda board meeting.

"Neri said 'basically, ma'am, we will need a backbone but who will provide this is the issue—but there is the private sector. Yes, a backbone ma'am. It can be done through BOT.

"The President said: 'That's why you have to make sure it's BOT. That's why I ask 'where is the money coming from?'

"Neri said: 'What we need to do, ma'am, is to structure it in a way that there is no government subsidy, but the government will become just a main customer for this backbone,'" Lacson quoted from the minutes.

"But not take or pay," the President said, according to Lacson.

Like thief in night

After all the guidelines, Ms Arroyo proceeded to Hainan, China, and witnessed the signing of the deal.

"So all these circumstances, plus what was already mentioned by Senator Estrada, point only to one thing: The President, your President, knew all along that there was this project, that Abalos was pushing ZTE to bag the project, and so forth and so on," Lacson said, addressing De Venecia.

Change of policy

De Venecia said he agreed with Lacson's observation. "I'm quite surprised with the change of the policy," he said.

De Venecia wondered whether the Neda or the different Cabinet members convinced the President to change the policy on the NBN project.

"Or is it the other way around? She convinced Neda to sign the approval of the NBN," Lacson said.

After the hearing, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee, told the INQUIRER that there were a lot of circumstances that pointed to the President knowing more than it appeared.

What's clear, what's mystery

"How far was she involved in the bribery is a mystery. But what is clear is that while the project is overpriced by $130 million, why is she still pushing for it? Otherwise, she should just let her people explain here," Cayetano said.

He said the blue ribbon committee's duty was not to link the President to the deal.

"We just want it to establish and reach a logical conclusion. Too early to say whether she knew about the bribes," Cayetano said.

GMA to Mendoza: Take case to SC, where there's no politics

From page A1

Ms Arroyo's order would, in effect, spare her administration from what could be a potentially divisive showdown with the Senate, which has opened an investigation into allegations that the deal with the Chinese telecommunications giant ZTE Corp. was marked by massive payoffs.

Ms Arroyo announced her directive to Mendoza when she spoke yesterday at the start of the board meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) while the Senate inquiry was in full swing.

"I am directing Secretary Mendoza to appear and explain before the Supreme Court the case of the National Broadband Network," she said.

She said her administration could present evidence before the high tribunal, where there would be no politicking.

The high court recently issued a temporary restraining order on the deal following a petition by Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico questioning its legality.

Ms Arroyo made no mention of the Senate blue ribbon committee, which has summoned executive officials led by Mendoza, who snubbed the inquiry claiming the case was already in the courts.

Mendoza: A melodrama

"There is no politics and evidence is the basis of the processes in the court," Ms Arroyo said, speaking in Filipino. "It is in court that the issue of whether the deal is in accord with the law and the welfare of the people will be judged correctly."

Ms Arroyo said the executive branch was also prepared to help in the probe of the Ombudsman, where graft cases against some officials have been filed.

Mendoza, for his part, said he was ready to face the Supreme Court on the NBN deal and maintained that businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III was only criticizing the project because he did not win it.

"I have read the affidavit of Joey de Venecia III and heard his testimony before the Senate today. Neither changed my view that, despite his well-rehearsed attempt at melodrama at the Senate, he is still a sore loser," Mendoza said.

Politicized

Mendoza said the issue had been highly politicized and that Ms Arroyo was right when she directed him during a Cabinet meeting yesterday to prioritize the court case rather than explain to the Senate.

He also said that when granted a "leave of court" to speak out on the NBN issue outside the high tribunal's hearings, he would demonstrate that the project "went through the legal processes, is aboveboard and is for the benefit of the Filipino people."

In her remarks to the Neda board, Ms Arroyo stressed that opposing views and positions were natural in a democracy.

According to justice

"What is important is that there are courts and legal processes that can resolve any disagreement in a peaceful manner, according to justice and the evidence, without politics," Ms Arroyo said.

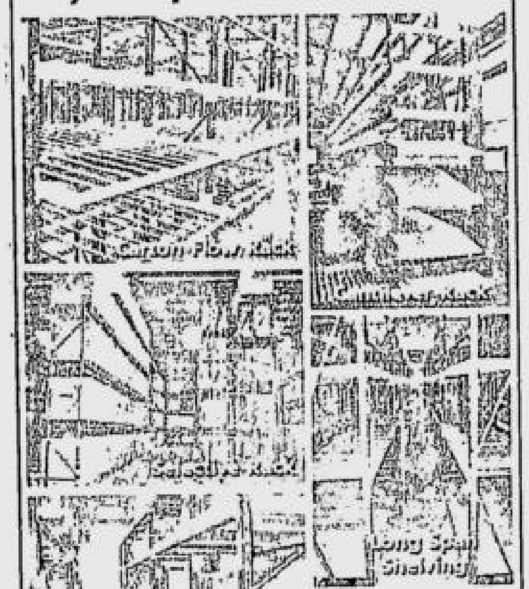
She said she convened the Neda board to approve and speed up the completion of priority projects, including expressways and railroads.

Ms Arroyo said the country needed to strengthen the rule of law and ensure political stability in its march to progress.

"This is what every investor is looking for," she said.

She urged Congress to promptly concur with Proclamation No. 1377 that she issued granting general amnesty to communist rebels.

"We need to ... help local government strengthen peace in the provinces under the amnesty (proclamation)," she stressed, even as she ordered the Armed Forces to defend the public from the "death and destruction" wrought by enemies of the state.



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

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The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of EIGHT MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (Php8,450,800.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Procurement of Desktop and Notebook Computers, printers and Projectors for PSALM Corporation:

Schedule	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Approved Budget for the Contract
I	Desktop Computer	70	Unit	Php6.750,000.00
	Notebook Computer	15	Unit	
II	Network Colour Laser	3	Unit	Php1,242,800.00
	Network Laser Printer	6	Unit	
	Portable Printer	4	Unit	
III	LCD Projector with Document Reader	1	Unit	Php268,000.00
	LCD Projector (High-End)	1	Unit	
IV	Notebook Computer (High End)	2	Unit	Php190 000 00
	TOTAL			Php8,450,800.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Desktop and Notebook Computers, printers and Projectors for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) PER SCHEDULE shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) PER SCHEDULE who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of SIX THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php6.000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
6. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 26 September 2007 at 10:00 AM at the 6th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 08 October 2007, 10:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC), Bank guarantee (1 ½% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2 ½% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 08 October 2007 at 10:15 AM at the 6th floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

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BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 19, 2007)

PDIC president Mike Osmeña dies; 57

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT Insurance Corp. president Michael "Mike" Ablaza Osmeña passed away on Monday after a brief bout with cancer.

The board of directors, management and staff of the PDIC announced the death of Osmeña, 57, who took over the helm of the state-owned corporation on July 4 last year.

Osmeña is survived by his wife, Theresa Mapua Osmeña and three sons, Ramon, Anton and Stefan.

His remains are in Kamagong Room, Manila Memorial Funeraria Paz in Sucat, Parañaque. Interment shall be on Sept. 22 after the 9 a.m. funeral mass at the St. James the Great Church in Ayala Alabang.

"His term as PDIC president was marked by improvement in the corporation's service delivery, organizational efficiency, financial strength and employee welfare. He strongly supported advocacy programs in enhancing financial literacy education and savings discipline," the PDIC management and staff said in a statement yesterday.

He was also a government nominee to the Boards of the Philippine Bank of Communications and the Philippine National Bank. During his term, the PDIC played a critical role in the government's exit from the PNB after a successful rehabilitation marked by the sale of government's shares via public offering.

Prior to his stint in the PDIC, Osmeña was a veteran of 30 years and held various management positions in corporate finance, credit management and consumer banking.

He was a senior officer and sales director of ABN Amro responsible in building the consumer business and likewise worked with Bank of America Savings Bank as chief marketing officer.

Osmeña also served as assistant vice president of Citibank N.A. for more than a decade (1977-1988) where he handled all aspects of global trade relationships of various Philippine-based multinational corporations. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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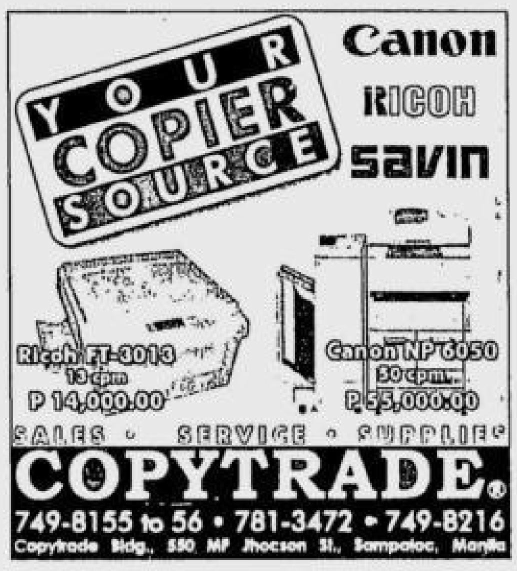
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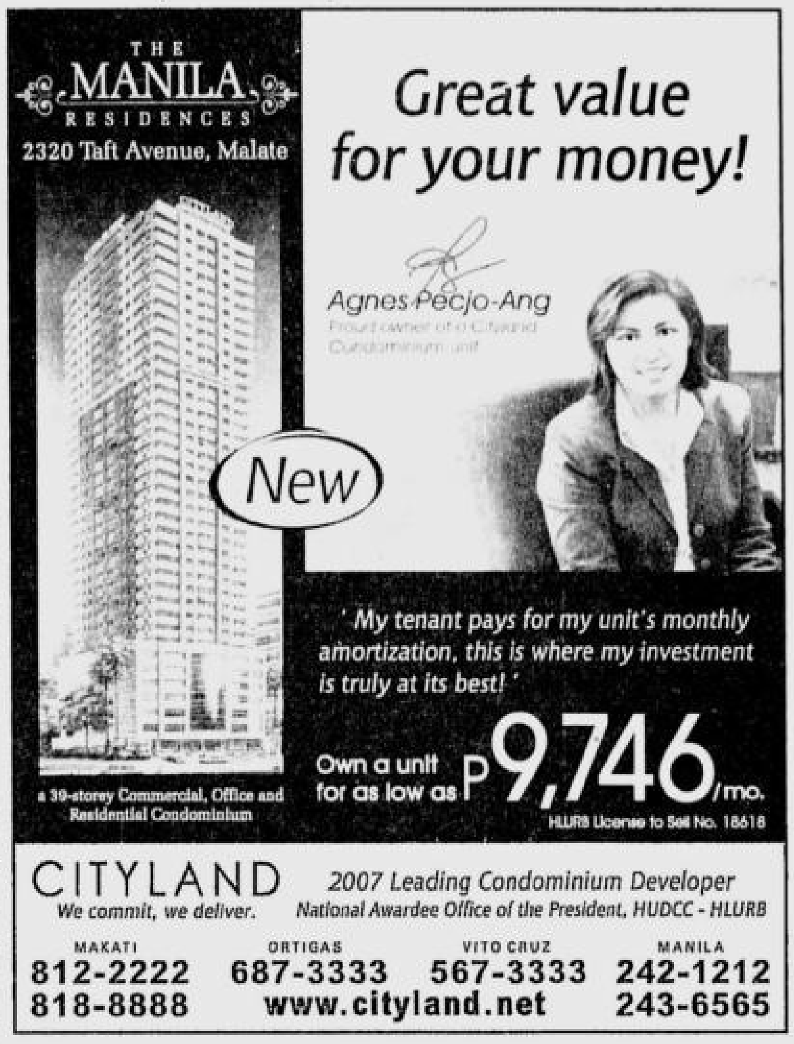
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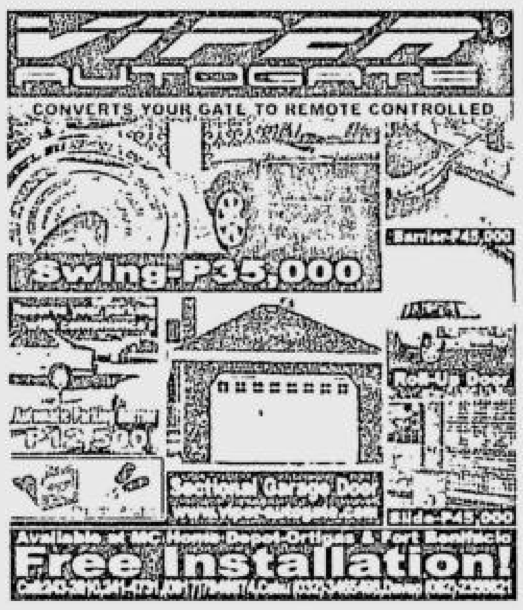
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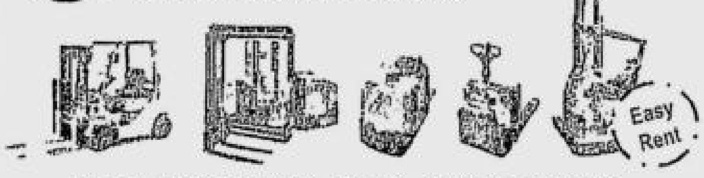
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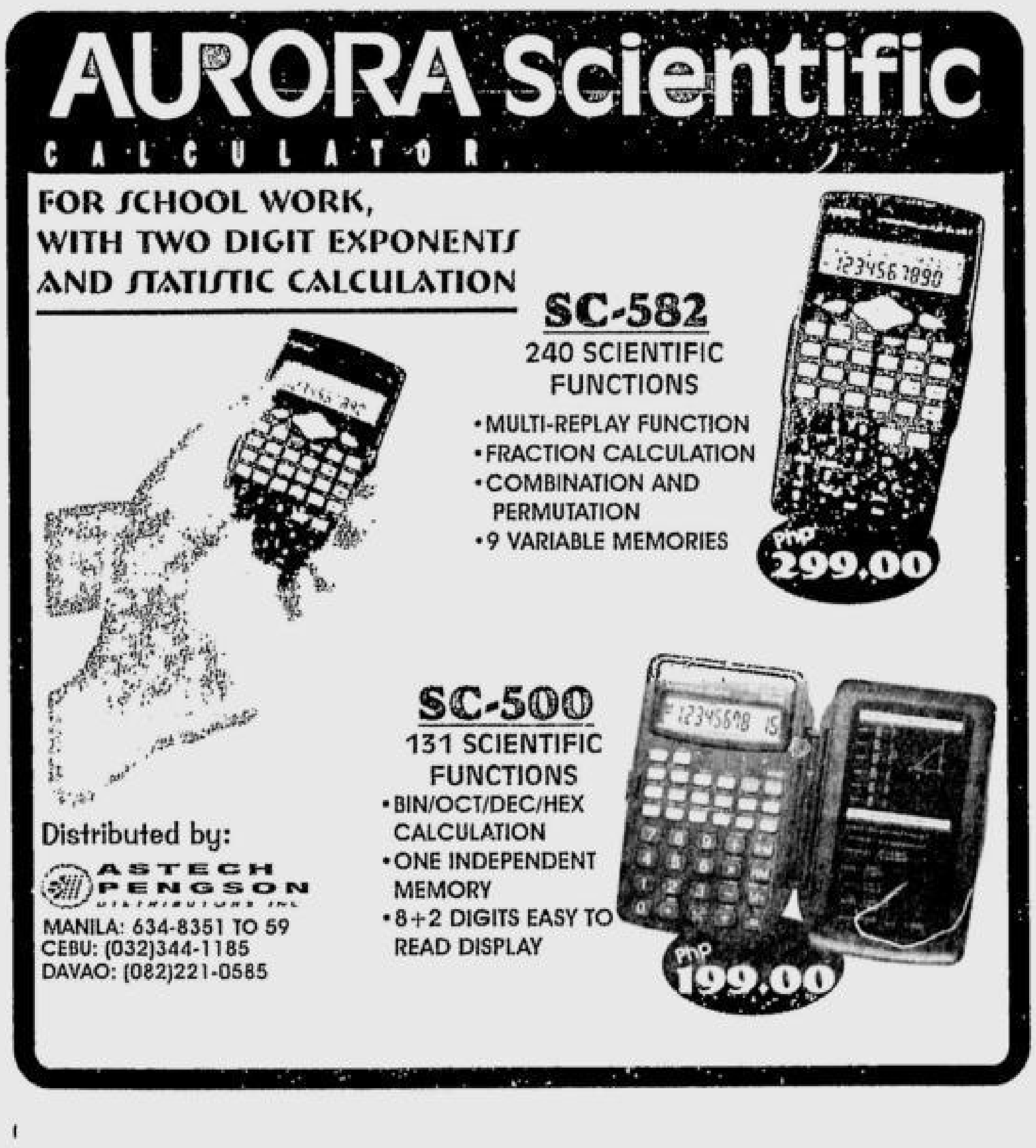
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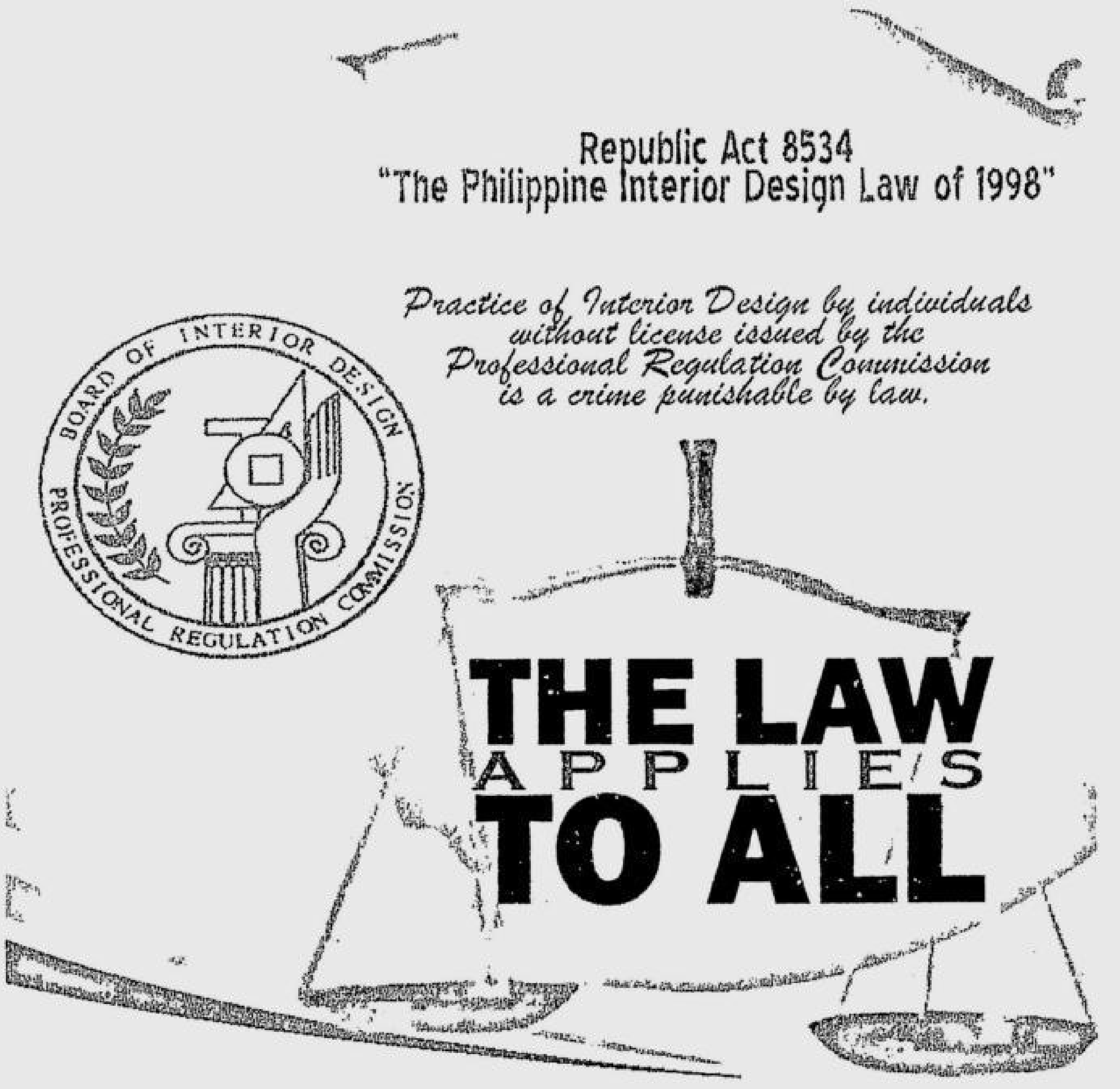
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Mike A is mystery man; JDV son tags G

From page A1

Amsterdam Holdings Inc., which lost the contract for the NBN project to ZTE Corp.

De Venecia also recounted how Abalos, in a separate meeting with officials of China's ZTE Corp., which he attended, allegedly demanded advance commissions and claimed Ms Arroyo and his father, Speaker Jose de Venecia, were expecting the money.

The younger De Venecia said he was shocked by Abalos' attempt to drag the names of Ms Arroyo and of his father, and he pulled Abalos aside "to warn him against the gratuitous namedropping." But when the meeting resumed, he said Abalos continued with his demands.

Heavy heart

In his opening statement, De Venecia said: "It is with a heavy heart that I cannot deny that it was First Gentleman Mike Arroyo at the reconciliatory meeting."

"I do, however, want to make clear that it was his presence alone that I observed and I have no other indication of his participation in the NBN project or the deal with ZTE," he said.

The Senate and House of Representatives are investigating the ZTE contract amid calls that it be rescinded because it was allegedly overpriced by $130 million and attended by corruption. Two economists claimed that the NBN project was unnecessary because the private sector already had two broadband networks.

Last week, the Supreme Court ordered a temporary stop to the NBN contract, which was signed in April in Boao, China, by Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong in ceremonies witnessed by President Arroyo.

Reconciliatory meeting

The young De Venecia was referring to the "reconciliatory meeting" in a function room of Wack Wack, where De Venecia said Arroyo tried to bully him to get him to withdraw AHI's unsolicited proposal for the NBN project.

"*Sinindak niya po ako* (He threatened me)," he said in reply to Sen. Francis Pangilinan's question.

Pangilinan said the act of the President's husband, who left the country for Hong Kong on the eve of the Senate inquiry, was more like a "*pangduduro* (browbeating)."

The "reconciliation" meeting was called by Mendoza to patch up differences between De Venecia and Abalos, who allegedly brokered the ZTE deal in exchange for a kickback.

Golf buddies

"I believe Abalos and the First Gentleman and Mendoza are very close friends. They play a lot of golf. They're buddies," he said.

Other persons at the meeting, according to De Venecia, were Abalos' chief of staff Jimmy Paz, Abalos security staffer Quirino de la Torre, Ruben Reyes and Leo San Miguel. (De Venecia apologized to Edgar Dula Torres, a retired police official, whom he had mistakenly identified as being part of Abalos' group when he was actually referring to De la Torre).

Vice Gov. ROLEX T. SUPLICO

REENACTMENT: De Venecia used his fellow resource person, Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico, at the Senate probe to demonstrate h
Mike Arroyo tried to "bully" him to withdraw his own bid for the government's broadband project.
ROGER MA

Heavier person

"My impression is that Chairman Abalos had asked him (Arroyo) to convince me to withdraw [my bid]. It's like in a fight where you will ask a heavier person to back you up," De Venecia said.

De Venecia said Mendoza spoke first: "Joey (De Venecia), the chairman is here. The First Gentleman is here."

Abalos supposedly told him: "Joey, I forgive you for your sins."

(Abalos was apparently referring t
Venecia's claim that the Comelec
had gotten mad at him for telling ZT
ficials that he [Abalos] wanted a
vance commission.)

De Venecia said he did not reply
asked instead if Abalos' proposal fo

Senators fear 'dynamic obsolescence'

From page A1

three committee chairs expressed the view that the government could end up with an antiquated communication network before it had fully paid the 20-year loan with the Chinese firm, ZTE Corp.

Ramon Sales, former chair of the Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CICT), justified the NBN contract, citing the government's increasing communication expenses.

"What I can't accept is that the telecoms cost of the government keeps going up," said Sales who resigned last May.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the Senate committee on trade and commerce, likened the government's NBN project to it buying its own airline because it was spending a lot on air travel.

"It's like, we are spending so much on air travel, let's buy our own airplanes. We are spending so much on helicopters to go to far-flung barangays, let's build a road all the way to these areas, even if in fact a road is not the most efficient, effective use of government money," said Roxas.

No assurance

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, Senate blue ribbon committee chair, said his concern was that if the government entered into a 20-year NBN deal, "we might get stuck with obsolete technology." He cited the "Telepono sa Barangay" project that was eventually shelved with the advent of cellular phone technology.

Biazon, chair of the defense committee, said there was no assurance that the government could continue to use the NBN infrastructure to be put up by ZTE for the next 20 years.

"If we invest here, how long can we use the system before it becomes obsolete?" he asked.

Sales said the answer depended on the situation.

He cited potential savings of about P30.4 billion in the next 20 years under the contract with ZTE Corp., while rival Amsterdam Holdings Inc.'s proposal offered savings of around P17 billion for the same period.

But Sales later told reporters the CICT could not compare the two proposals and the potential savings since the two firms had used different approaches to arrive at their figures.

Under questioning, Sales admitted the extrapolated savings were based on the Department of Transportation and Communications' assumption that the government would be spending P4 billion annually for communications, or about P80 billion in the next 20 years. He admitted he had not read the DOTC's "supply contract" with ZTE Corp.

Figures bloated

But Roxas said the DOTC's figure was bloated since the proposed 2008 national budget only allocated P2.7 billion for communication expenses.

"It is very clear that just because we have high
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Senate warns Mike A: Snubbing in

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE SENATE HAS WARNED the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo against snubbing its inquiry into the $329-million contract won by China's ZTE Corp. for the national broadband network project.

Juan Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's refusal to answer the charges made by businessman Jose de Venecia III would be taken to mean he was guilty, said Sen. Alan Cayetano, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee which leads the Senate inquiry.

Mr Arroyo left for Hong Kong on Sept. 17, the eve of the opening of the Senate hearings into the ZTE deal.

"There's damning testimony against them," Cayetano said.

"Unlike before when they refused to appear (because) they want to talk less to make less mistakes, right now if they don't appear what do you think would be the conclusion of the people?" he said.

But Cayetano, who had crossed swords with Arroyo in the 13th Congress, said the Senate might issue an "invitation" first to Arroyo and then the others men
Venecia in his testimon

Invitation/subpoe

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Doc, lawyer say FG trip set long befo

From page A1

Dr. Rommel Cariño told the INQUIRER that the new scandal involving Arroyo would have been stressful to him since he had just recovered from life-threatening surgery.

But he should have been in the country when Jose "Joey" de Venecia III testified at the Senate, "to avoid suspicion that he is hiding," Cariño said, adding that Arroyo could let his lawyers handle the matter anyway.

"*Kasi pag wala siya, lagi siyang pinag-uusapan* (Because when he's away, people always talk about him)," the doctor said.

He conceded that Arroyo's departure was bad timing: "*Nakakaawa naman siya, kasi pag-alis niya, tiempo.*"

Cariño, a senior heart surgeon with the Philippine Heart Center, performed the dangerous 10-hour aneurysmectomy on President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband after he was diagnosed with a dissecting aortic aneurysm (a condition in which a tear develops in the biggest blood vessel in the body).

Doctors said the survival rate among those afflicted was only 5 percent.

Arroyo's survival led him to call Cariño his "miracle surgeon."

Was it the stress?

The surgery was conducted on April 9, a few weeks after the meeting in which Arroyo supposedly threatened De Venecia and told him to "back off" the National Broadband Network (NBN) project cornered by China's ZTE Corp.

Asked if the stress of the NBN meetings in March could have aggravated Arroyo's heart condition, leading to the emergency surgery, Cariño merely laughed.

He said his patient's trip to Europe had been planned for some time.

Cariño said Arroyo sought his permission two Tuesdays ago to go on a two-week trip to Europe: "He really wanted to go abroad. He said he will go to Europe with his friends. Two weeks *lang daw siya doon.*"

The doctor said he gave the go-signal because his patient was already fit to resume "normal activities."

"He already plays golf—I think, at least twice a week," the doctor said.

2nd trip overseas

Cariño said Arroyo did not specify his ultimate destination in Europe. But according to sources speaking off the record, Arroyo was to fly to Munich in Germany from Hong Kong.

It is Arroyo's second trip abroad, after the trip with the President to Sydney, Australia, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit on Sept. 6-10. (He did not join the activities lined up for the spouses of the Apec leaders during the summit, however.)

Cariño said the only advice he gave his patient was to lie flat on his back during the long-haul flight to Europe. He said he was assured that the airline could meet this requirement.

"He should be lying flat; otherwise he will have b
doctor said.

Cariño saw no pro
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and
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operation" between ZTE and his own firm, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., was still on.

Before Abalos could reply, Arroyo cut De Venecia off and told him to "back off."

"Back off is, *iwanan mo na itong proyekto* (leave this project). *Huwag na akong sumali dahil may ibang kasali diyan* (I shouldn't join the project because someone else was already involved)," De Venecia told the senators.

After being told to back off, De Venecia said he tried to explain to Arroyo the advantages of AHI's proposal.

"But he (Arroyo) refused to listen. He went to the other side of the room. He just stood up and left," the businessman said.

"I ended up talking to nobody," De Venecia said.

Waiter

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said one of the waiters at Wack Wack witnessed the meeting. De Venecia, however, could not recall the exact date but that it was held about middle of last March.

When questioned, De Venecia recalled that both Arroyo and Mendoza were in white *barong* Tagalog while Abalos came in a "very nice" polo *barong* with the Comelec pin.

De Venecia said earlier in March that he came across Mendoza at his father's home.

"You know Joey, your proposal is difficult because the old man [Abalos] is mad at you," he quoted Mendoza as telling him.

De Venecia told the Senate inquiry that the ZTE contract was overpriced by at least $130 million.

He said he was offered $10 million to join the Chinese firm in the deal while on a visit to China last December.

"It was there that I found out that the ZTE proposal was, as early as then, overpriced by ... $130 million" ostensibly to accommodate kickbacks, he said.

After he refused to form a partnership with ZTE, De Venecia said Abalos threatened him and Star columnist Jarius Bondoc, who had written about the deal.

"It was also him (Abalos) that threatened to have Jarius Bondoc and I killed for informing the public of his wrongdoing," De Venecia told the senators.

Sen. Francis Escudero pointed out that both De Venecia and Arroyo were liable for violation of the antigraft and corruption law (Republic Act No. 3019) because relatives of the president, vice president, Senate president and House Speaker up the 4th degree of consanguinity are barred from involvement in government contracts. *(Story on Page A1.)*

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and fax transmissions even if the ZTE Corp. laid down the NBN infrastructure.

Sales further justified the government's NBN project, saying private service providers could not service the farthest barangay office.

But he also admitted the ZTE project would only cover 40-45 percent of government offices, and he was not sure if government financial institutions would also be covered.

quiry means guilt

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quiry—Sen. Manuel Roxas II of the trade and commerce committee and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon of the defense committee.

Also to be invited are the alleged associates of Benjamin Abalos Sr., chair of the Commission on Elections, namely, his chief of staff Jimmy Paz, a certain Leo San Miguel, a certain Ruben Reyes and retired police general Quirino de la Torre.

"Whether it's an invitation or a subpoena, what we're after is that he appears," said Cayetano, adding that under court rules, flight is an indication of guilt.

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Santos said Arroyo "left for abroad Monday evening on a long-planned and delayed vacation, and not for anything else."

He said the trip had been planned "a long time ago, not because there's an inquiry in the Senate," but because his doctors wanted him to have "a clean bill of health."

No comment

Santos declined to comment on De Venecia's claim that Arroyo had told him to "back off" from the NBN deal.

"We're checking on that right now. We're coordinating with the Senate. First, we have to get a transcript of the inquiry if Joey really said that at the hearing. We have to react from there ... but ... we will beg off in the meantime," the lawyer said.

In the statement, Santos said allegations that his client had left the country for Hong Kong to avoid facing the Senate inquiry were "disgusting malicious insinuations."

He said Arroyo had planned the vacation even before his heart surgery.

"Besides, the First Gentleman has not been even mentioned at any time in the ZTE controversy. Neither has he been invited to the Senate inquiry. So to even insinuate that he is trying to avoid the issue is totally unfair," Santos said.

Echoing Cariño, Santos said Arroyo was "fit to travel" and had been given the "green light" by his doctors.

He also pointed out that Arroyo had accompanied the President to Sydney for the Apec summit.

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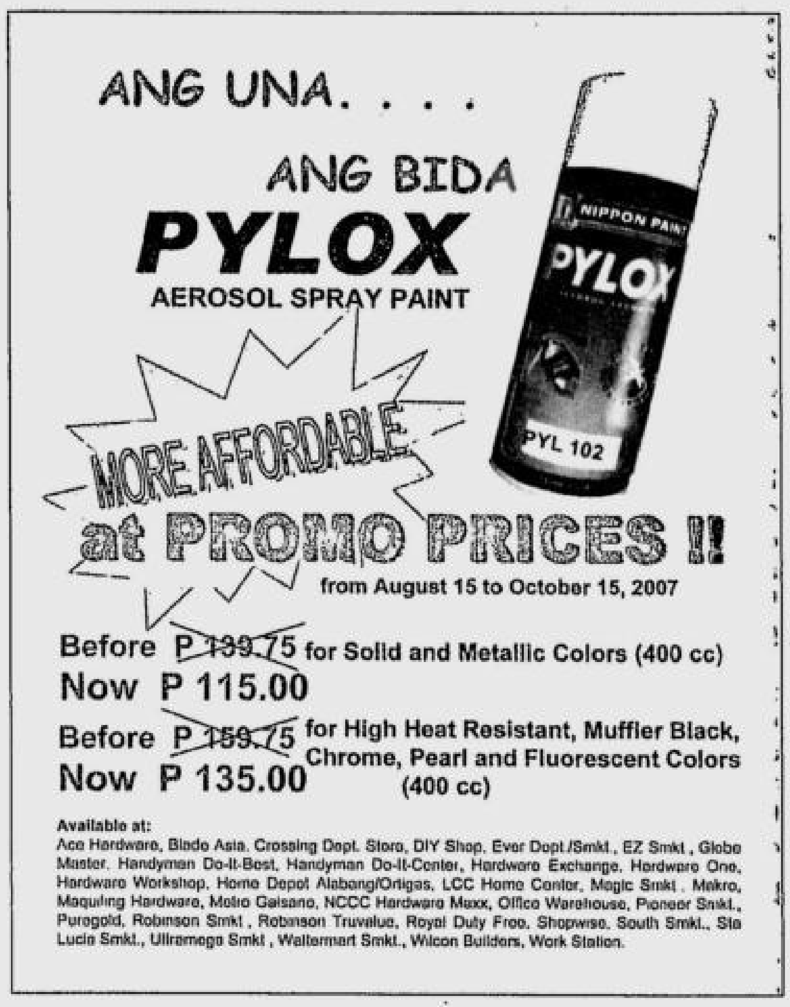

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OPINION

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Claim of impunity

EDITORIAL

JOSE DE VENECIA III'S DEMONSTRATION OF FINger-pointing electrified everyone watching the Senate proceedings. Asked to show how exactly First Gentleman Mike Arroyo told him to drop his bid to get the NBN contract, the younger De Venecia pointed to Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico, who was seated beside him, and screamed, "Back off!" After days of intense speculation, the public now had testimony, under oath. The "mystery man" who tried to intercede on Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos' behalf, was no less than the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The First Gentleman, of course, had suddenly appeared at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport the night before, refusing to talk to the media. While Palace officials scrambled to belie the impression that the departure was rushed, they really had nothing to say. Eventually, a bland announcement went out that the departure was for reasons of health, and that because of his precarious health, the First Gentleman shouldn't be pressed on the issue.

But there isn't any shortage of able-bodied and much healthier Palace officials who could have gone to the Senate, but who refused. Whether in terms of Monday's Senate inquiry on the "Hello, Garci" wiretapping, or Tuesday's inquiry into the NBN broadband deal, Palace officials to a man (and woman) failed to show up. The Arroyo administration shows no inclination to cooperate with the Senate.

The result is that the Senate now has to issue invitations to more and more individuals and raise the ante when it comes to administration personalities who've already been invited. Subpoenas are next. And if those are ignored, contempt citations must, necessarily, follow. Some senators are already so irritated that Sen. Joker Arroyo has had to insist on traditional procedures being followed, lest the Senate suffer a reversal before the Supreme Court. He says he is certain things are going to end up before the Supreme Court.

Besides invoking, once more, EO 464, the administration can also claim that the commander-in-chief powers of the President authorize her to prohibit military officials from answering a Senate summons. Whether in terms of the Garci tapes or the NBN deal, and, we expect, the CyberEd project, administration policy seems to be to refuse any questions at all. If refusal isn't on the basis of executive privilege, or the commander-in-chief powers (for Garci tapes-related matters), then there's the excuse of matters being sub judice.

This isn't just stonewalling. It's more than asserting rights. It goes beyond the separation of powers. This is an assertion of total immunity from accountability, a claim of presidential impunity, not just immunity.

Abalos, too, has decided to hide behind his constitutional office in order to avoid being grilled over allegations of patently unconstitutional and illegal behavior. With the House of Representatives poised to get into the act by holding its own NBN-related hearings, the war between the executive and legislative branches is threatening to expand. As it is, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus has already refused to attend the House's Question Hour on the CyberEd project. It will also be the Comelec versus the legislature. And everyone will end up running to the courts.

This is what's so dangerous about the situation. If the administration, after pursuing delaying tactics in the courts, loses, the Senate or even the House may be able to win over a point of principle. But who will enforce Congress' will? An order of arrest signed by either the Senate president or the Speaker would have to be implemented by the Philippine National Police or the Armed Forces of the Philippines. What if they disobey, or are ordered to disobey? Congress could go to court. And then what?

Perhaps a draw would follow, one lasting until the end of the President's term. If so, it would only make the demands for retribution after the May 2010 elections even more ferocious. To be sure, the Palace may seek comfort in the saying that the public's memory is short. But it is a memory that could instantly be reawakened the moment the First Gentleman comes home. And so, the ultimate question is, does this mean so long as Ms Arroyo is President, her husband will remain an exile?

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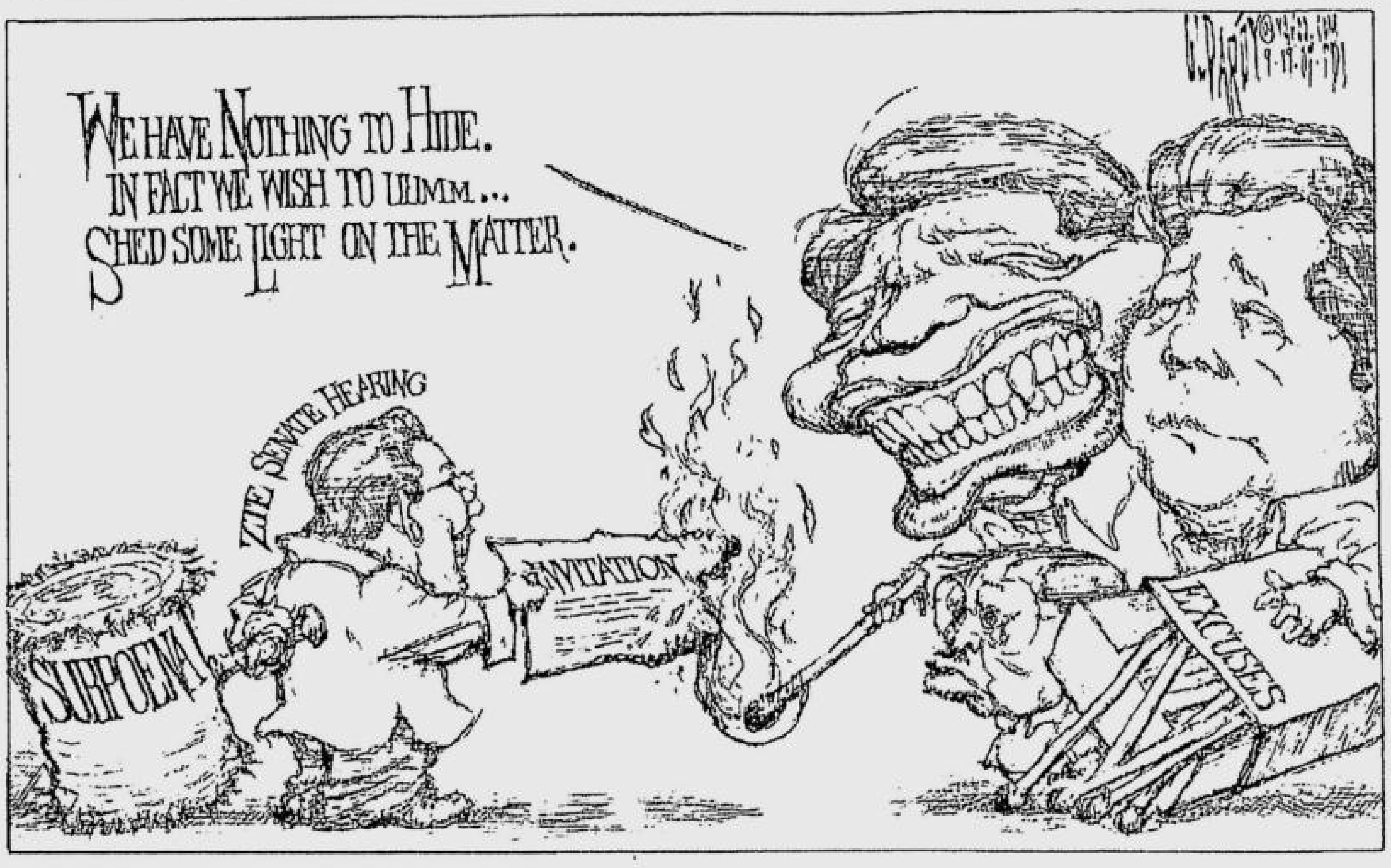
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How much did richest legislators pay in taxes?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SO SENATE PRESIDENT MANUEL VILLAR IS the richest senator (net worth: P921.4 million) and his wife, Rep. Cynthia Villar, is the richest member of the House of Representatives. But how much did they pay in personal (not corporate) income taxes? Are these income taxes proportionate to their immense wealth? It is only fair to the other taxpayers that they be informed how much their super-rich leaders pay in taxes.

Some public officials inflate their net worth in their statements of assets and liabilities not only out of pride but also, some suspicious cynics say, to hide ill-gotten wealth later. If your net worth is already high when you enter public office, it wouldn't be hard to explain your wealth when you leave it.

And it is not difficult to inflate or deflate the value of your assets. To inflate, you simply declare the current market value of your real estate properties. To deflate, you declare the acquisition cost which, because of inflation, is very much less than the present market value. And you are not, technically, committing perjury. You are telling the truth in both cases.

That is why some public officials are unusually rich while others are unusually poor. And why public officials with large real estate holdings are usually the "richest." Which probably explains why the Villars are declared year in and year out as the "richest" legislators.

What I'm driving at is that the statement of assets and liabilities is not the real indicator of how rich or poor a person is. The real indicator is how much he or she pays in personal income taxes. The richer he is, or the more assets he has, the bigger the taxes he must pay, *di ba*? But there are senators and congressmen (and other public officials) with plenty of assets but who pay peanuts in taxes. When that happens, the Bureau of Internal Revenue should take out its calculator and find out why. The taxes paid should be proportionate to the assets. If they are not, then there is something wrong somewhere.

But we will never know that unless public officials declare in their statements of assets and liabilities how much personal income taxes they paid.

People say the law prohibits divulging the taxes paid by any individual. True, but public officials should be exempt from that prohibition. Under the principles of transparency and accountability set by the Constitution, the public lives of public officials should be an open book. If a person wants to retain his privacy, he should not join the government. Once he joins it, there should be no secrets. The public should know almost everything about their public servants, especially the taxes they pay, an obligation of every citizen.

The others among the 10 richest senators are: Jamby Madrigal (net worth: P148.9 million), Mar Roxas (P140.3 million), Bong Revilla (P107 million), Juan Ponce Enrile (P98 million), Jinggoy Estrada (P83 million), Pia Cayetano (P76.2 million), Miriam Defensor-Santiago (P76 million), and Loren Legarda (P41.4 million). All the senators, by the way, are multimillionaires, including the poorest, Antonio Trillanes, whose net worth is P2.3 million.

International and national business magazines, also list the richest businessmen every year. The richest among the Filipinos are usually the Chinese taipans like Lucio Tan, Henry Sy, John Gokongwei, etc. and the Spanish-Filipino Ayala and Zobel families. Congratulations, but how much did they pay in personal income taxes? The magazines, much less the super rich themselves, don't say. It would be good for the BIR to publish how much taxes they paid, to encourage other taxpayers to pay correct taxes, but it does not.

The BIR usually publishes the names of the biggest income taxpayers, both corporate and personal. So why does it not publish the taxes paid by public officials, especially members of Congress, and by our richest businessmen? They should lead the rest of the citizenry in paying taxes, shouldn't they? The people should know if their richest countrymen are paying the correct taxes.

And if they know that the BIR publishes the taxes they pay, they would be forced to always pay the correct taxes, wouldn't they? Why be ashamed to reveal the taxes you paid if they are correct?

But shy public officials and the BIR say the law prohibits making public the taxes paid by individuals. I see no good reason for this prohibition except to give public officials an excuse to keep their tax payments secret.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, official spokesman of former President Joseph Estrada, told the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday that he would file a resolution asking the BIR to reveal the taxes paid by members of Congress and also file a bill that would mandate the publication of the taxes paid by top public officials in the spirit of transparency and accountability. Only those who are not paying the correct taxes would oppose such a bill.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKES: The conviction for plunder of former President Estrada has spawned a welter of jokes. Erap jokes are usually corny, but here are two of them anyway:

Lawyer to Erap before the reading of the sentence: May I have your cell (phone) number.

Erap: *Tarantado ka ano! Hindi pa nga ako nahahatulan, cell ko na ang tinatanong mo.*

* * *

After Erap's conviction, President Macapagal-Arroyo went to his Tanay vacation house to console him.

GMA: I'm going to give you a parole.

Erap: *Ayoko*. It's still too early to put up Christmas decorations.

There's the rub

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE'S ONE THING I DREAD ABOUT BOOK launchings. It's not what to say there: Many things reduce me to inarticulateness but book launchings are not one of them.

No, my problem is more elemental. It is remembering people's names, which of course is essential when people line up to you to have their books signed. Which for some reason they insist on, reminding me of that part in "Notting Hill" (I must have watched that movie a dozen times, and each time I still laugh out loud at the wonderfully literate lines there) where Julia Roberts observes that the travel book she is about to buy is autographed, and Hugh Grant replies, yes, the author insisted on it, "but if you can find one that's not, it'd be worth an absolute fortune" (or words to that effect).

Complete strangers are no problem, it's complete friends, or acquaintances, that are. I've always had a horrible memory for names and faces, worsened by doing underground work during Marcos' time—briefly physically and interminably spiritually—when I had to deal with false names or aliases or noms de guerre. I saw little point in remembering them, they were going to change anyway almost as fast as it took for their bearers to change their status in life, from underground to aboveground, from free to jailed, from living to dead. The last was an added incentive to letting things slide in the Teflon of the mind; it didn't help having all the faces of those with one foot in the grave ("We who are about to die, greet you") etched in memory like the names of lovers inside representational hearts carved on trees. But I'm probably just making excuses.

Years ago, it actually happened to me, the stuff of bad dreams: I completely forgot the name of someone I worked with in The Daily Globe. It was the launch of "Dance of the Dunces" in 1991, I was in a daze from the sleepless nights cramming on the planning and dashing off some things to say along with indulging/fortifying myself with Bacchus' divine libations, a thing I was still wont to do then, my fingers not yet having been augmented by grotesque protrusions, courtesy of gout. When her turn came, her face beaming down on me where I sat, I simply could not summon up her name.

Forgetting names has its remedies in social life, when you can always call male friends "bok," or "pare," or the now ubiquitous "ser," and your female friends, their equivalents. In fact, half the time you don't even have to call them by name, you can just resort to "*Kumusta na?*" while biding time, hoping their identities will float on the surface of your consciousness like the bloated bodies of the drowned. Except of course at parties or socials when you're compelled to introduce your companions to others, but which you can always get around by saying, "Why don't you just introduce yourselves?" Or some such breezy remark, though that requires practice to get the proper air of nonchalance across. I can't say I've been able to master it.

But as I was saying, this person suddenly loomed before me, beaming probably in expectation of a nice dedication, and I could not for the life of me remember her name. My anxiety turned to nervousness and my nervousness to full blown panic, and my mind turned from blank to blanker. In my mind's eye, or paranoia, I could feel everyone in the line eyeing me fretfully, like a queue at a supermarket does a cashier whose cash register has suddenly conked out. My agitation must have been patent to my signature-taker she seemed prepared to take out something from her handbag to relieve me of my agony like one of those ads about diarrhea.

Days later, I could imagine all sorts of witty things to say, but there and then, well, I dropped the ball. Before I could say anything with any semblance of savoir faire, she said with much savoir faire, "I'm not wanted by the police, I'm still using my old name," and she gave it to me to my vast relief—as vast as the one you see in ads about diarrhea. We should have traded places.

All this craziness is just to say that I will soon probably find myself in the same predicament again. I'm launching a book this Friday, and it is not for my publisher alone that I'm making this shameless advertisement. The book is called "Tongues on Fire," which is also the title of the first piece. (The last is called "Silence," fittingly enough.) It's a collection of the speeches I've delivered over the years on various occasions. As I explain in the preface, it's the product of the patient exhortations of my publisher, Karina Bolasco of Anvil, and the not-so-patient harangues of my devoted readers, who have resorted to making me feel guilty (at last to some avail) by saying they have been laboriously clipping my columns.

I've decided to come out with the speeches first to put, if not my best foot forward, at least one damn good one. Also, I didn't realize I had delivered a great many speeches all these years, in great part for graduations. Who knows? Maybe it can spark an enthusiasm of speechifying or orating among today's students, a dying art if ever I saw one. Who knows even more? Maybe it can improve the quality of speeches in the Senate and House of Representatives—I understand that the privilege speech is currently Congress' version of the recess bell, it's the signal for the legislators to leave the hall and take their coffee break—though elegance seems to be the last thing their utterances need; truthfulness is first.

The launch is at the Peta Theater Center, No. 5 Sunnyside Drive, Barangay Kristong Hari, Quezon City, 6-8 p.m. Bring a witty line with you just in case I forget your name. It won't get you your book for free but it could give you smug satisfaction.

Verdict on plunder opens new controversy

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

EXPECTATIONS THAT THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S decision convicting former President Joseph Estrada of plunder had put an end by judicial fiat to his case as the most disruptive element in political stability crashed on the rocks within days of the verdict.

No sooner had the ink dried on the verdict, sentencing Estrada to life imprisonment, than a new controversy, more destabilizing for national unity than the already decided case, flared over the question of executive clemency, or what's next for Estrada.

This much is certain. He was not promptly dispatched to the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa upon promulgation of the decision, a fate that befalls lesser Filipino citizens beneath the rank of ex-president. Instead, the court allowed him to be returned to his house arrest sanctuary in Tanay until further orders from the court on his final destination.

Politicians advanced the explanation that the leniency accorded to Estrada was more than judicial—it was "not to humiliate" him in the interest of bringing about political reconciliation. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who defended Estrada stoutly during Estrada's impeachment trial in the Senate, said, "He should not be humiliated." It was the same Enrile who looked very forlorn after the tribunal voted 11-10 to seal the second envelope containing evidence of the Jose Velarda account. In the pandemonium following the vote, journalists and TV cameramen all mobbed Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who voted with the minority of 10 and resigned the Senate presidency. They ignored Enrile, the villain of public opinion during the trial, standing forlornly in the corridor, and he was heard to remark, "'Is there anyone who wants to talk to me?"

Another mealy mouthed politician, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who ran for reelection in May 2007, defining himself as an "independent," became a pleader for extraordinary leniency for Estrada. He said Estrada "must be accorded the respect and dignity (due to) a former head of state."

While Estrada stays in his Tanay estate, where he was spared the rigors of incarceration and lived in enviable comfort, the execution of his sentence remains suspended, putting him in a twilight zone.

The eventual destination of Estrada is to be decided by a few key questions, including whether he appeals to the Supreme Court to overturn the Sandiganbayan decision or seeks presidential pardon or is covered by an amnesty, all of which raise a host of contentious legal issues. The question of executive clemency has put President Macapagal-Arroyo on the spot and has put under a cloud the contention that the decision has closed a chapter in the seemingly perpetual rivalry between Estrada and Ms Arroyo. In reality, the decision opened new fissures in this vendetta and has divided the nation more deeply than the plunder case ever did.

Estrada has played these cleavages to his advantage. He has turned the tables on his tormentors. His lawyers are saying that he is open to amnesty or pardon but he would like to read the "fine print" first. They are, in effect, laying the conditions for his pardon or amnesty, or even for negotiations for the presidential exercise of clemency.

For the first time in the history of criminal jurisprudence in this country, a convict is laying down the terms of the execution of his sentence. This makes the public curious over who won or lost in the plunder case. Estrada has made the government hostage in its deliberation on what to do with him. There is a developing consensus among Cabinet members that it is politically expedient to grant Estrada a pardon, as this is a presidential prerogative, if not sooner then later. How to do it, without making either Estrada or the administration lose face, has generated a hot debate among lawyers.

Estrada would consider either pardon or amnesty so long as he does not have to admit guilt, and he insists he is not guilty of plunder and that the court was a kangaroo court and he was tried under a lynch mob political atmosphere.

Estrada's spokesman, Rep. Rufus Rodriguez says, Estrada "is open to amnesty, but he needs to make sure of the provisions. It needs to be studied. The No. 1 provision is that there should be no admission of guilt. Pardon is really out."

There is also the question of whether he is eligible for amnesty, since it is also argued by some Palace officials that "amnesty is for political offenders only and not for plunderers." Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno has said he favors a presidential pardon but Estrada must first "make a formal and official request." There is a stalemate on this issue.

The Palace is unlikely to back down on this, a course that is humiliating and mocks the presidency. Will Estrada come down? The public may ask, is the vanquished laying down the terms of capitulation for the victors?

President Arroyo has said she felt that her administration would become more stable as a consequence of the Sandiganbayan decision. Her spokesperson quoted her as saying: "We have a country to run, an economy to grow, and a peace to win. We hope that this sad episode in our history will not permanently distract us from these goals."

Public opinion polls reveal considerable sentiment for pardon for Estrada at some point, and Estrada and the administration are both aware of this mood. The predicament of the administration is how to accommodate this mood without being embarrassed for capitulating to Estrada's demands. If it does, it would fling wide open the floodgates of another, more dangerous, round of political instability.

Lessons they learned

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"DURING OUR TIME IN THE SENATE," RECALLED former Sen. Eva Estrada Kalaw, "our colleagues dismissed everything we did by saying: '*Mga babae lang 'yan* (They're just women).' Even if we knew they were wrong, it still hurt."

Relations with their male colleagues figured prominently in the talks and during the open forum of the Second Eminent Women in Politics Lecture Series. The event, organized jointly by the Miriam College-Women and Gender Institute and the Office of the Senate President, paid tribute to three women, all of whom had served as senators: Kalaw, Helena Benitez and Santanina Rasul. Last year's honoree was former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani.

Rasul, who was the first and so far the only Filipino Muslim woman to be elected to the Senate, remarked that "men are really chauvinists," when asked by a student if there is really equality between men and women. When she filed her bill seeking to declare March 8 a non-working holiday and to be observed as National Women's Day (March is now observed as National Women's Month), she recalled, "all my colleagues agreed to be co-authors, but when it came to the plenary discussion, all the men rose up and demanded that if there was going to be a women's day, then there should be a men's day, too!"

In contrast, Benitez said the Senate in her time may have been male-dominated, "but even so, it was gender-fair." But this was because, she implied, the Senate in the 1960s was an "urbane, civil and civilized place."

All three also agreed that while even today the odds don't favor the woman candidate, women should still take the plunge and dare run for office. As Kalaw remarked: "There are more women voters than men." Her remarks were especially apt for that gathering because the country was commemorating last Sept. 17 the 70th anniversary of Filipino women's right to suffrage. It also happened that it was Senator Kalaw's mother-in-law, Pura Villanueva Kalaw, who spearheaded the 30-year struggle to give women the right to vote.

* * *

STILL, as Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan, president of Miriam College, observed, "70 years after winning the right to vote, Filipino women are still under-represented in government and in decision-making positions."

Licuanan cited the concluding comments of the CEDAW committee when it reviewed the Philippine report, which noted "the low level of participation of women in all levels of government," and urged the Philippine government "to take measures, even temporary special measures" to ensure a more balanced representation by women in public life.

Speaking on "Feminist Concepts of Power: A Woman's Place is in Politics," Licuanan recalled the process by which the theme of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women was determined. "A strong contender suggested by the European countries was 'Half the World, Half the Power," she said. But other governments, particularly those from Asia, were uncomfortable with such a strong, aggressive demand for power and instead suggested what ultimately became the conference theme: "Equality, Development and Peace."

Still, said Licuanan, the incident became for her an example of "women's ambivalence towards power."

* * *

BUT even as women struggle to attain greater voice and visibility, added Licuanan, women seek political power "to transform politics as we know it," seeking to create a political system that is "transformed and transformational," and to change the attitude that views "power as domination" to one that sees power as "liberation."

Even so, the three former senators had advice, culled from experience, to give to every woman in the gathering thinking of running for office.

Benitez reminded future candidates "to make sure that women will vote for you, because women do not necessarily vote for other women. That's a painful fact, but true."

Rasul added that "women leaders will not always be supportive of women or their causes." She also reminded the audience that "it is not easy to run for an electoral position, today you need a lot of money or to be an *artista*."

Kalaw's advice was blunt: "You make your choice. You want to do good but refuse to get mixed up in politics, then stay with your NGOs. But once you decide to run for office, you have to know how to play the political game, and that includes dealing with political parties."

* * *

RASUL also reminded everyone that "there is life after the Senate."

For her part, after losing in her third campaign, Rasul simply resumed the work she had been doing through the Magbassa Kita Foundation, pursuing a lifelong mission devoted to adult literacy, which began when she was just a child and would pass on stories which she had read to her friends and neighbors through nightly storytelling sessions. These days, Magbassa Kita is also involved in peace advocacy, which Rasul herself pursued when she became a member of the government panel in the RP-MNLF talks. The continuing conflict in Mindanao, she reminded the audience, "is not a Mindanao problem but a Manila problem," since it is the policymakers and decision-makers who have a say on whether there will be peace or violence in Mindanao.

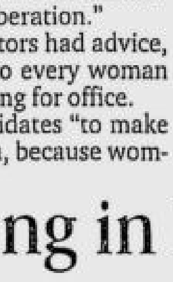
Benitez, too, continues her lifelong advocacy of education, being chair of the PWU Board of Trustees, while Kalaw showed that age has not dulled her combative stance nor blunt tongue.

When Maita Gomez, herself a feminist activist who has tried her hand in electoral politics, asked the three honorees "how different would life have been if you had been male," Benitez replied, "I am happy to be a woman." Rasul admitted that if she had been male she would "probably have been a warlord or a fighter."

But it was Kalaw who brought the house down when she replied: "I think I would be a *bakla*!"

Origins of boxing in RP

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA SLIPPED WHILE SINGing the National Anthem before a boxing match recently. He didn't slip on the notes, he did on the words and show-biz news made a big thing out of it.

Last Sunday, during the unveiling of a historical marker commemorating the birth centennial of National Scientist Dr. Geminiano T. Ocampo, the person in charge of the anthem also missed its last part. I let it pass because of the person's age; besides I was distracted while singing because Dr. Ocampo (no relation) was being hailed as the "Father of Philippine Ophthalmology," a title which I felt should rightfully belong to Jose Rizal. As a matter of fact, Dr. Ocampo was an admirer of Rizal and one of his prized possessions was the set of ophthalmic tools that were once used and owned by Rizal. Few people saw the irony in the fact that the "Father of Philippine Ophthalmology" was serenaded with musical numbers by a rondalla composed of blind men.

While I'm glad that Bautista's gaffe led media to direct its attention to the National Anthem, most of the usual commentaries on radio and TV were knee-jerk reactions. While it is true that we should know the anthem by heart (or in the head), those who jumped on Bautista should accept an honest mistake when they see one. Why demand an apology from Bautista when it is fairly obvious that he would not have sung the anthem wrong on purpose? No normal Filipino will intentionally dishonor the flag or anthem. These things happen and should be excused.

At best a mistake can be used constructively. Wouldn't it be useful for commentators to use the Bautista gaffe as an introduction to a discussion on how the anthem should be sung and why? Nobody seems to mind when artists take liberties with the anthem, either singing it slow as "Ama Namin" or changing the tune, pitch and emphasis in certain parts. Instead of harping on a mistake, the same could be used to educate viewers and listeners. Early morning TV and radio use up a lot of energy that unfortunately generates more heat than light.

Most gatherings and programs today start with an invocation and the singing of the anthem. I don't know what has happened to simple and direct prayer, but more and more programs start with the song "A Prayer," which is too long and does not inspire listeners to prayer.

Then we have the anthem played in movie theaters during what is still known as the "last full show." Do movie theaters screen partial shows? Should we sing the anthem in theaters and boxing matches? Do we ask ourselves why we do things the way we do?

Before readers get bored with yet another column on the flag and anthem, let me share the loot from an afternoon in the library. Going through the periodicals section, I stopped somewhere near the academic journals and found an article by Anne R. Tapp, "Mecca of Oriental Pugdom: Philippine Boxing 1898-1921."

You can never tell what academics will study next—everything from political trends to leg-jiggling among Filipino males. I remember being very smug about my own esoteric field—Rizal—until my supervisor gave me humbling advice. He said, "You should never presume to think you know everything about your topic, because there will always be an obscure German academic who has written an article about your subject long before you were born."

In the age of Manny Pacquiao one would think that we can easily find a history of boxing in the Philippines, only to realize that what we have is a short but fascinating overview that not only traces the origins of boxing in the Philippines but also situates the sport within the "civilizing" mission of the United States in the Philippines. It teases out the relationship between sports and society, showing how the Americans unsuccessfully introduced baseball to substitute for the Filipino fondness for cockfighting.

Baseball was not like basketball which has since become our national sport. Boxing was like cockfighting, except that you had two men rather than birds fighting in a ring. More fascinating was the fact that there were Filipino-American matches that emphasized racial tension and settled these in the boxing ring.

One of my prized American-period postcards shows a boxing match in Laguna between two midgets in diapers being held apart by an American referee. At first glance, the postcard is odd and quite funny, but if you go beyond boxing as a sport and place it in the context of the US civilizing mission in the Philippines, there is something deeper than this eccentric postcard. Boxing was introduced for sport and fitness, but in practice it spawned gambling so that the Philippine Commission in 1902 enacted Act 557 that sought to curb the ills that came with cockfighting and boxing.

In the Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act of 1909 we had free trade between the United States and the Philippines and nobody, except Tapp, noticed that a decade after this was passed, the Philippines became the largest foreign purchaser of American sporting equipment. Nobody seems to remember Palomar Park established in 1909 in Tondo, Manila that had, among merry-go-rounds and other forms of amusement, boxing matches run by the Trozo Boxing Club.

There is so much obscure information to be found and so few researchers in libraries.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Joys of language

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

MY PARENTS' GENERATION HAD TO TAKE 24 UNITS OF Spanish in college. My generation, now in mid-life, had to take 12 units. Eventually, the requirement was completely abolished.

Today, some universities require Spanish for specific majors, usually history. Other courses will have a foreign language requirement, but leave students to choose what they want to take. Some courses have no foreign language requirement at all, and this is where there are debates. Should we still require some exposure to foreign languages?

During our last University Council meeting at UP, the College of Mass Communication proposed abolishing the foreign language requirement for film majors. Dr. Sergio Cao, the UP Diliman chancellor, expressed reservations and asked why they wanted to abolish the requirement. The Mass Com faculty said that a few units of a foreign language would not produce proficiency anyway. Happily, the foreign language requirement was retained as faculty members agreed that the aim of a foreign language requirement wasn't mastery in the first place.

I couldn't agree more. I'm going to explain how exposure to foreign languages helps us not only to deal with globalization but to better appreciate our own national languages.

'Ultimo Adios'

I grew up in a multilingual environment, with English, Minnan Chinese, Mandarin and Filipino used at home and in school. In college, I took the 12 units of Spanish, plus 3 units of German. (Since I was a biology major, my advisor thought German would be useful.) After college, working with non-government organizations, I went through a three-month crash course in French with Odille Malay before being shipped out to France for a fund-raising campaign.

I never really mastered Spanish, German or French, but I did learn enough to get by. Ironically, it was the informal course in French that proved most useful, because Odille used an immersion approach, forcing our small class to speak in it, using very practical simulated experiences.

The formal classes in Spanish were, sadly, not too useful because it was mainly memory work, conjugating verbs and memorizing Rizal's "Mi Ultimo Adios" without really understanding, much less appreciating, the words.

Later in college, I rediscovered Spanish in the prose and poetry of Latin American writers, and in the songs of revolutionary Latin American music. Oh, if only Spanish had been taught to us in classes using contemporary examples. I would have argued, at that University Council meeting, that a film major would gain the most from an Almodovar film not just by watching but by listening to the original Spanish soundtrack. Sure, subtitles help, but it's still different hearing the Spanish script.

In linguistics, we have a term, "prosody," to refer to the study of the rhythms of languages. Appreciating languages like we do with music helps us to become more appreciative of cultural diversity. I'm always shocked by how parochial we Filipinos can be, making fun of other people's languages. (Oh, but we ethnic Chinese really get offended when people go *ching-chong-ching-chang-cho*"—we consider that a form of racism.) We live in a region dominated by tonal languages like Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, and we should learn to savor their musicality. There are in fact studies suggesting that young children who grow up learning Chinese actually become better with music, the language's tones giving them that "ear" for music.

Families

My bookshelves at home are filled with phrase books from all kinds of languages because I find it useful to pick up basic words whenever I have to visit a new country. It's fairly easy for me to "slide" into new languages because I've been exposed, even minimally, to so many linguistic "families." Bahasa Indonesia is a breeze because it belongs to the same family as Philippine languages. In Japan, I can make my way looking at Kanji street signs—Kanji meaning "Chinese words", many of which were incorporated into Japan. When I studied in the Netherlands, I could read, albeit slowly, Dutch newspapers because of English—and the three units of college German. Once in Brazil, I signed up for a local tour group because they had run out of slots for the English guide. I never regretted it: the Portuguese-speaking guide had all these little stories to tell which you didn't get in the English group. I never took Portuguese lessons but yes, the 12 units of college Spanish and Odille's French classes helped.

You might not master a language with three units, but at least you can aim to get the phonetics, the sounds, right. The other night I was listening to an American missionary on an AM radio station and I felt so sad for him. His grammar was perfect, but he mangled every vowel and consonant in Filipino. (Example: *"Ang te-oh ay ma-kha-sa-le-nen"* to mean "People are sinful.") It's not surprising, given that Americans rarely bother learning another language while in school, so when they do venture into a foreign language, they find it very difficult to pick up the sounds.

Our edge in the world job market isn't just because of our English but also our multilingual exposure, which makes it easy for us to pick up new languages. I once met a Chinese-Filipino who grew up in Antique and learned to speak Kiniraya, Ilonggo, Tagalog, English, Hokkien and Mandarin. Foreign languages were a breeze in college for him and he's now winning the world with his linguistic charm. Let's face it, the best way to bridge different cultures is to offer to learn each other's languages. Sometimes, even with a tiny vocabulary, just getting the phonetics right makes you special.

As we learn more languages, we see, too, how people deal with their own languages. We learn how much they love their native tongue, even as they retain an openness to picking up words, and languages, from the world. You'll find that multilingual people are more adventurous as well as more tolerant of diversity. The Dutch are an excellent example.

Let's start then with ouf own linguistic backyards. At UP's College of Arts and Letters, the Department of Filipino has a course "Suroy Suroy sa Wika, Panitikan at Kultura" offering a "tour" of Philippine languages, literature and culture. I can tell you, it may as well be a class in music. Our languages may not be tonal, but they have their own kind of infectious musical quality. Whenever I return from a trip to Iloilo, I find myself speaking Tagalog, English and even Chinese with an Ilonggo lilt!

If you have kids at home, I'd suggest you pick up Aklat Adarna's "Hale, Hale, Hoy" where you can learn to count in Gaddang and Bicolano, unravel Tausug, Waray and Manobo riddles and sing out in dozens of Philippine languages. Filipino translations are provided whenever Tagalog is not used, but recruit your non-Tagalog friends to help get the words right and to tune your children's ears to the wonders of languages.

Hale, hale, hoy! Let's go!

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A new 'miracle' in Subic, with Palace intervention

IT WASN'T LONG AGO WHEN SUBIC showcased the best in the Filipino.

Just as the world watched aghast how Clark Air Base was stripped down to the last toilet bowl by looters shortly after the Americans abandoned it, the world later stood in awe and admiration of the zealousness of the "Olongapo volunteers" in safeguarding the billion-dollar facilities left behind by the US Navy in Subic.

No looting took place in all the areas guarded by them. The only looting there was in the Subic Command building which served as headquarters of a military contingent.

The Subic Bay Freeport was founded on the honesty, sacrifice and selfless dedication of Olongapo residents who, despite a seemingly bleak future without the Americans, remained steadfast and accomplished the "Subic Miracle."

Now, by a twist of fate, Subic is again in center stage because of another "miracle." This time, of the despicable kind. Once famous for having strict rules and regulations (gate passes for entry, purchase cards for buying PX goods, stiff traffic policy), Subic is now notorious for the "miracle" of smuggled goods, luxury vehicles and oil fuel. A smuggling hotbed. What happened?

Under Republic Act 7227, the Subic Freeport supposedly enjoys autonomy from the national government. As the first-ever free port in the country, it has its own governing rules and its own tight security policy carried over from the time it was still a US naval base.

During her presidency, Cory Aquino hardly meddled in the affairs of Subic. Neither did Fidel Ramos, who threw his full support behind the leadership of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority then. Smuggling might have reared its ugly head during that time, but it is safe to say that it was only "on a small, manageable scale."

But when President Joseph Estrada came to power, Malacañang started to exercise dominion over Subic and this was when large-scale smuggling started. The problem worsened when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the First Gentleman spread their tentacles all over Subic.

Yes, the problem in Subic is Malacañang. Its tenants should keep their hands off the free port. And they should get their dirty, retired generals out of there.

Yes, Malacañang should let competent, apolitical executives manage the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, and smuggling will be minimized if not totally curbed. It is not too late to save and pursue the promise of Subic.

—EMILIO TRINIDAD,
85 Rizal Ave.,
West Tapinac, Olongapo City

PARTNER KO, ALAGA KO
On June 30, INQUIRER and UNILAB concluded its third medical missions aimed at uplifting the lives of its valued partners, the newsboys. Shown in the photo is Dr. Lali Aleta, one of the volunteer doctors, checking up a newsboy while the others await their turn. This mission covered over 150 newsboys and their families.

Repairs: A tale of (politicians from) two countries

LAST AUG. 6, AT A BRIDGE ACROSS THE Thames River near the London Eye, the world's largest observation wheel, I noticed a sign that read "The Mayor of London apologizes to the public for the inconvenience that might be caused during the repair and repainting of this bridge." The mayor is characteristically different from the Filipino politician.

If that repair job were in the Philippines, a big billboard, with the name and picture of the politician, would be displayed with words to the effect that the improvement was made possible because of his or her efforts, almost giving the impression that the funds came from his or her pocket.

Just before the death anniversary of Princess Diana and her boyfriend Dodi Fayed, the press came out with a story that a planned accident had caused their death. In the United States, speculation persists that it was that country's invisible government that snuffed out the life of their first Catholic president. In the Philippines, we had Ninoy Aquino dying on the tarmac of the international airport. I am now convinced that people living in different parts of the globe, regardless of the color of their skin or the length of their noses, are descendants of Cain and Abel.

When Malacañang had a Waray-Waray occupant, cemented roads from Aparri to Jolo were constructed. Almost all towns got electricity where before only big towns and cities had them. Beautiful parks mushroomed all over the country. Then we got the Philippine International Convention Center, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Lung Center, Kidney Center, Children's Hospital, etc. The mothballed nuclear facility might, after all, be made to produce electricity. Are these touches of genius inspired by *bahalina*?

Allow me to thank Conrado de Quiros for his July 30 column which I first read on the Internet while I was in the United Kingdom. My favorite watch is Rado. Now my favorite columnist is Conrado. Aside from Belinda Olivares-Cunanan, of course. Should De Quiros be here in Calubian on Oct. 7, the feast day of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, *bahalina* will be our drink with *adobo nga barinday* and *kinilao nga pasayan* as *sumsuman*.

Let us make *bahalina* the national drink. Again my modest proposal.

—ANTERO JUNIA JR.,
Calubian, Leyte 6534

Panasonic
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Bottom line in 'open skies:' Choice

IT SEEMS THAT NEAL H. CRUZ does not see the complete picture of "unfair competition in 'open skies.'" (INQUIRER, 8/10/07) Perhaps unwittingly, he is parroting Philippine Airlines' oft-repeated contention against releasing us, the riding public, from its monopolistic stranglehold of the Philippine skies.

PAL's standard cry is that it faces "unfair competition" from foreign airlines, especially those receiving state or government support in the form of loans, subsidies, etc. But what it does not tell Cruz and the public is that PAL itself receives state support in the form of tax-free gasoline and other perks. For instance, PAL gained exclusive use of the Naia 2 terminal without spending a single centavo for its construction. The rest of its competitors have to cram into the old Naia 1 terminal.

Besides, PAL is making money by just simply renting its seat allocation to competing airlines in the so-called "code-sharing scheme." Without flying additional planes, PAL earns through huge commissions. And prices of airfares remain as exorbitant as ever. The sad fact is that the routes (e.g., Doha and Dubai) are the ones frequented by our overseas workers, who bear the brunt of costly fares; they are made to think, though, that they fly PAL when in reality they are using other airlines.

"Open skies" is indeed a complicated issue. The solution is not just to subsidize PAL, which the government is already doing. The bottom line for the riding public, especially our overseas workers, is greater accessibility or wider choices of airlines with the best services at affordable prices. Let us give the consumer more choices.

—ARNEL F. DE GUZMAN,
managing director,
Pacific Resource Institute for
Migrant Empowerment (PRIME),
arneldg2000@yahoo.com

RP was not 'Christianized' in 1521

THE COMMENT OF BENITO Legarda Jr. (INQUIRER, 8/13/07) to my reaction titled "What Islam can do to RP" (INQUIRER, 08/03/07) is nonsense. Assuming that my estimate of Islam's preceding Christianity in the Philippines is off by over 250 years, still the proposition that Ferdinand Magellan's landing in the Philippines in 1521 brought Christianity into the Philippines is wrong. Magellan stayed for a few days only in Limasawa Island and then in Cebu, where he and most of his followers were killed by Muslim warriors led by Lapu-lapu. The mission of Magellan's expedition was to search for spices in this part of the world.

Christianity was established in this country only after the arrival of the succeeding Spanish expeditionary forces (the first led by Legazpi in the 16th century) and the Spanish Jesuits, and the next two in the 17th and 18th centuries by the *conquistadores* through tyranny.

The Filipinos in Luzon and the Visayas fought valiantly against the Spanish oppressors but, after many years of fighting, they succumbed to the Spanish mission here in the Philippines. It was only the Muslims (Moros) in Mindanao who repelled those foreign invaders.

—IBRAHIM M. DIANALAN,
Cebu City

RHC ethic being sneaked in via LGUs

I'D LIKE TO THANK CHRISTIAN V. Esguerra for his front-page story on Kapatiran's John Carlos de los Reyes. (INQUIRER, 8/12/07) Reyes has embarked on an exceedingly brave and lonely battle that bears close watching in Olongapo City. It would appear, from his opening salvo, that he is more than just another Don Quixote. He has taken on formidable opponents, among them the proponents of the Reproductive Health Code (RHC) which carries with it the language and ethic (as well as intent?) that accept abortion as a human right.

Funding for USAID's deadly buffet of donated condoms, pills and devices (many of which are abortifacient) is trickling dry, and population control proponents would have this program financed by taxpayers at the local level. Having failed to breach the strong lobby of the Catholic Church in Congress, RHC proponents are now working to sneak in the program by the back door, via local governments.

The battle lines have moved from the Batasan to the provincial boards and city councils. We all need to be vigilant, and when we find champions like De los Reyes, let us be generous with our support. We need more Kapatiran public servants who (to paraphrase John F. Kennedy) ask not what their constituents can do for them but what they can do for their constituents. May their tribe increase, and may they stay the course.

—MA ESQUIVEL,
Vienna Street,
Merville Park, Parañaque City

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MILF members leave camp for Ramadan

ZAMBOANGA CITY—MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) forces in Basilan have returned to their homes to spend the Ramadan with their families, a ranking rebel official said.

Earlier, the MILF ordered its men in Basilan, "numbering about 500," to converge in their camps to avoid clashes with soldiers hunting down suspects in the July 10 beheading of 10 Marines in Albarka town.

Sattar Alih, MILF representative to the local joint monitoring committee in Basilan, said the return of their forces to their homes was coordinated with the military.

"We, from the local joint monitoring team, initiated talks and coordination with military officials to allow our forces to perform their religious obligations. We asked them to allow us one month of fasting and almost a week of *Hariraya* (end of the fasting month) celebration," Alih told the INQUIRER on Monday.

Alih said after the Ramadan, MILF forces are ready to be stationed to their camps again should the military resume the manhunt.

"Provided we were properly informed prior of any military offensive. In 20 minutes, we could easily regroup and give way to soldiers for the hunt against the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Basilan Gov. Jum Jainuddin Akbar said he wished that displaced families could also return to their villages for the Ramadan.

"(But) we don't have the approval or go-signal from the military to allow the return of the evacuees, we are still waiting for their official order," he said.

He said it was difficult for the evacuees, numbering about 2,700 families, to spend the Ramadan in the houses of their friends or relatives.

"I am just hoping that the military will immediately grant the approval as we are going to meet within this week so that the evacuees could observe Ramadan in their homes," Akbar said.

The Ramadan is expected to end in the first week of October.

Peace talks between the government and the guerrillas are stalled on issues of territory.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had dangled ancestral domain titles for the guerrillas to accept government terms in a peace agreement that would require a plebiscite for the creation of an autonomous region that has an area bigger than the existing one.

But the MILF said a plebiscite should not be part of the conditions for the expansion of the autonomous region.

The Moro National Liberation Front had entered into a peace agreement with the government in September 1996, but its leaders said the pact has barely been enforced, accusing government of various violations and continuing neglect.

Foreign donor countries have expressed interest in pursuing the talks, saying they were ready to pour in investments in Mindanao should there be a final peace agreement. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Seize stray dogs, execs told in bid to stop rabies

BAUANG, LA UNION—The local government has ordered village officials to seize stray dogs in an effort to prevent the spread of rabies in the town.

Mayor Roberto de Guzman said the stray dogs would be impounded and owners would be given two days to claim their pets or these would be killed.

Earlier, Bauang officials declared the town under a state of calamity after 95 people were reported to be infected with rabies. Three persons have died since January this year.

The town has an ordinance preventing dogs to stray. It penalizes erring dog owners P1,000.

De Guzman, in a phone interview, said the ordinance would be strictly implemented because rabies infection is fast spreading in the town due to dog attacks.

On Monday, two residents, one from Disso-or Village and one from Parian Oeste, were bitten by dogs, increasing the number of victims to 97.

One of the dogs died while the other is under observation, he said.

De Guzman said a survey undertaken by the local government showed that the town has about 6,000 dogs. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

BULACAN AREAS IN DIRTY LIST

Pollution report hurts execs

MARILAO, BULACAN—OFFICIALS here said they were dismayed that the town was included in the list of 30 most polluted places in the developing world drawn up by the New York-based Blacksmith Institute.

Mayor Epifanio Guillermo said industries based in nearby Metro Manila and garbage thrown by residents of the metropolis contributed to the degradation of the rivers of this town and the nearby City of Meycauayan.

Guillermo cited a case of chemical waste dumping by a Valenzuela City-based firm into an irrigation canal here in December last year.

Dirty 30

Marilao and Meycauayan were the only areas in Southeast Asia included in the "Dirty 30" list.

In its report, "The World's Worst Polluted Places," the Blacksmith Institute said industrial waste is "haphazardly dumped into the Marilao, Meycauayan, and Obando River system, a source of drinking and agricultural water supplies for the 250,000 people living in and around" the area.

"The river system is extremely polluted due to wastes received from tanneries, gold and precious metals refineries, the largest lead smelter in the Philippines, and numerous municipal dumpsites," it said.

Mad, ashamed

Guillermo said he was "mad" and "felt bad and ashamed" as the people of Marilao were portrayed as "dirty" when in reality, they could not be blamed for the pollution of the town's rivers.

Guillermo said Valenzuela and Caloocan cities in Metro Manila and Meycauayan were the sources of pollution of Marilao's waterways.

"The report was drastic. The condition of the Tullahan River in Valenzuela is worse and they did not report that. We are sad and angry about it. I am ready to resign anytime if any person or group would succeed in cleaning our river," he said.

But Guillermo said he was also thankful that the report was publicized because it would serve as a wake-up call for residents and officials here.

He said Caloocan's waste dumped in an area along a river in Barangay Bagong Silang near their town caused the pollution of their river.

No control

"During high tide, these wastes are washed down to the river. What can we do? How can we control that," he said.

Gov. Joselito Mendoza said they were aware of the problem and were seeking a US government aid to fund the rehabilitation of the river system of Marilao and Meycauayan. *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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Team to search for RP eagles

CITY OF MALOLOS—THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE Foundation will send a survey team to Bulacan to determine if the Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) still thrives in the province's forests and in parts of the Sierra Madre mountain range.

Jayson Ibañez, coordinator of the PEF's field research program, said the survey would cover the forests of Norzagaray and Doña Remedios Trinidad towns and San Jose del Monte City.

Ibañez said they wanted to validate reports of residents in these areas and members of the Dumagat tribe living in forests that they saw Philippine eagles within the Angat Watershed Reservation Area.

He said some accounts also showed that eagles have been captured there.

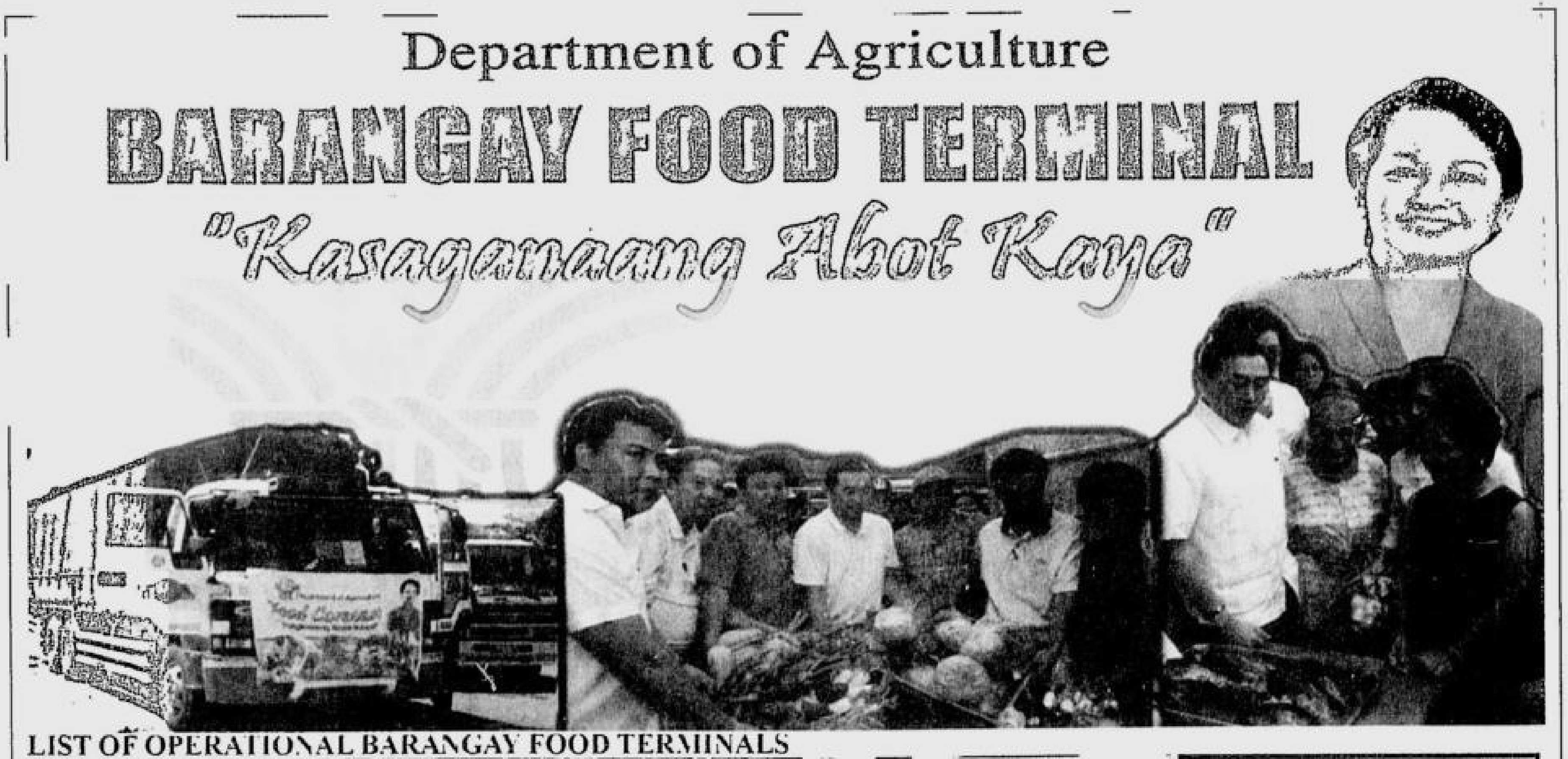
"But the only way to be sure is to go there, search for them. We want to be certain that they actually live there and they were not just passing by. We want to find their nesting areas," Ibañez said.

He said the PEF would hold next month an information and education campaign among upland villagers in communities within the Sierra Madre mountain range to help them monitor and protect the eagles.

"We hope to train local people, most of them Dumagat, on simple ways to study and monitor the Philippine eagle. Since they live in the forests and know the forests and its wildlife better, they're the best choice as forest and eagle stewards," he said.

Ibañez said the villagers would be taught how to handle and treat wounded eagles, to observe and document their behavior using specialized data notebooks, to record their track, and to properly identify Philippine eagles.

Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon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BARANGAY FOOD TERMINAL
"Kasaganaang Abot Kaya"

LIST OF OPERATIONAL BARANGAY FOOD TERMINALS

CITY	BFT	Contact Person		Tel/Cel Number
QUEZON CITY	Bgy. Balasan	Ranulfo Ludovica	Bgy. Captain	09275266245
		Linda Ludovica	Operations Manager	
	Bgy. Pansol	Angelina Abril	Operations Manager	4332866, 09155719701
	Bgy. Kristong Hari	Narciso Cuntapay	Bgy. Captain	416-0113, 09217435695
		Melvyn Montes	Operations Manager	09283381322
	Bgy. Payatas	Rosario Dadulo	Bgy. Captain	4271362, 09215504301
	Bgy. Baesa, Quezon City	Zeny Marcos	Operations Manager	382-9709, 09262428307
	Bgy. Capri, Quezon City	Arnaldo Caldo	Bgy. Captain	09186172178
		Pedro de Jesus	Operational Manager	939-2851
	Bgy. Holy Spirit	Chito Valmocina	Bgy. Captain	
		Norman Tajero	Operations Manager	09273413914
TAGUIG	Bgy. Signal Village	Corazon Rillera	Operations Manager	6284527, 09180006816
	Bgy. Tuktukan	Elizabeth Ramos	Operations Manager	09164249180, 6281909
	Bgy. Western Bicutan	Ricardo Cañales	Bgy. Kagawad	09108704948
		Agapito Ledesma	Operations Manager	09188253552
MANILA	Bgy. 649 (BASECO)	Teresita Lumactud	Chairwoman	09177918583
	Bgy. 630 (PUP Sta. Mesa)	Dorothea Mabanan	Bgy. Captain	09062131432
	Bgy. 129 (Smokey Mountain)	Nelia Balauro	Operations Manager	407-9251
PASAY	Bgy. 198	Lauedemer del Carmen	Kagawad/Operations Manager	09175025060
MALABON	Bgy. Panghulo	Luzviminda Loro	President KARISMA	446-1219, 09266982724
		Julieta Garcia	Operations Manager	09194710536

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50 container vans of smuggled sugar seized

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE BUREAU of Customs will auction off 50 container vans of seized smuggled sugar, said Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) administrator Rafael Coscolluela.

Coscolluela said the customs bureau would require the winning bidder to sell the sugar in the world market, to prevent their entry into the local market and a decline in local prices of sugar.

Coscolluela said that Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales informed the SRA that each of the 50 container vans has an average of 500 bags.

With sugar selling at about P450 per 50-kilogram bag in the world market, the value of sugar up for auction is estimated at P11.5 million, he said.

"If this seized sugar were to enter the domestic market, it would directly displace the domestic refined sugar," Coscolluela said.

The 50 container vans that were abandoned in the Port of Manila came in from Taiwan but the sugar came from Thailand, he added.

The Bureau of Customs will hold the auction in the presence of the SRA, he said.

Coscolluela said he discussed with Morales the concern of the sugar industry over the smuggling of sugar.

In turn, Morales agreed to deputize the SRA administrator and his designated representatives as customs agents in monitoring the ports of entry of smuggled sugar.

To be monitored heavily were the container ports in Manila, Subic, Cebu and Davao, he said.

"We would like to put in place a monitoring team that will make sure that we can stop misdeclared sugar brought in through containers," Coscolluela said.

However, he cited the need for funding to support the sugar anti-smuggling task group.

Coscolluela said he would discuss this with members of the Philippine Sugar Alliance, which is composed of sugar planters and traders.

"We have a meeting this week and we'll see what we can come up with as far as logistical and personnel requirements are concerned," he said.

The entry of smuggled sugar appeared to be the reason there has been a continuing drop in withdrawals of local refined sugar for the past four years, Coscolluela said.

He said the smuggled sugar would be hidden in container vans that have other cargo, such as electronic products and parts from Taiwan.

Coscolluela also noted that there could be possible "collusion" but he did not name those involved in it.

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Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

for the

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Bar Code Scanner/Printer and Biometric Finger Scanner For PSALM Corporation

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php300,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Supply, Delivery, Installation of Bar Code Scanner/Printer and Biometric Finger Scanner for PSALM Corporation:

Schedule	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Approved Budget for the Contract
	Bar Code Scanner and Bar Code Printer	1	set	Php60,000.00
II	Biometric Finger scanner	3	Sets	Php240,000.00
	Total			Php300,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply Delivery, Installation of Bar Code Scanner/Printer and Biometric Finger Scanner for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184 and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) PER SCHEDULE shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) PER SCHEDULE who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (PhP1,000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 26 September 2007 at 10:00 AM at the 6th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 08 October 2007, 10:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC), Bank guarantee (1 ½% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2 ½% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 08 October 2007 at 10:15 AM at the 6th floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
HELENA C. TOLENTINO
7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. (02)8405046, Fax: (02)8930699
e-mail: *hctolentino@psalm.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) HELENA C. TOLENTINO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI--Sept. 19, 2007)

PSALM
POWER SECTOR
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MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

for the

Procurement of Video, Digital and DSLR Cameras

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php270,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Procurement of Video, Digital and DSLR Cameras for PSALM Corporation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	Video Camera	1	unit	75,000.00
	Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) Camera	1	unit	120,000.00
	Digital Camera	3	Unit	75,000.00
Total				270,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

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5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (Php1,000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
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Nanay Rosa's patriotic night

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

IT'S A PATRIOTIC EVENING," A smiling businessman Oscar Pacis said at the conclusion of the concert marking the birth centenary of one of the University of Baguio's (UB) founders, the late Rosa Castillo Bautista, at the Baguio Country Club on Sept. 2.

Jerry Dadap, composer, arranger and conductor of Andres Bonifacio Choir, had just led the audience and the combined vocal strength of his group and the UB Voices Chorale in a rousing rendition in the ballroom of Constantino de Guzman's "Bayan Ko" and Francisco Santiago's "Pilipinas Kong Mahal."

While the 20-plus choral numbers were sung, images of and text about the woman the community called Nanay Rosa were flashed onscreen.

Originally from Pateros (then part of Rizal), Bautista, a Philippine Normal School graduate, married her gangmate Fernando in 1938 and settled with their small family in Baguio before the war broke out.

When the rubble of war was cleared, they put up the UB's forerunner, Baguio Tech and Commercial Institute, starting out with just eight typewriters.

Her cousin Rosario Castillo Raymundo, former UB home economics dean, recalled that Nanay Rosa's favorite expression when she chanced upon dust in a classroom was: "Is that your standard for cleanliness?"

Raymundo said the older woman was also prone to express her dismay over teachers who did not use their heads. She would say, "If there was only a medicine that would give a person common sense, I would buy it no matter what the cost and I would give it free to teachers who lack it."

She could not abide with the answer "I don't know." Raymundo said that to say so meant to Nanay that "the person did not care about anything at all."

And yet she was the court of last recourse for many a UB teacher and employee. According to the souvenir distributed during the program, people borrowed money from her, a practice that became popular in the university, but as treasurer, she did not collect any interest.

In her last years, she inscribed in her last will and testament: "To make up for the sins of my youth and the sins of omission of my later years, I wish that P100,000 of my inheritance be used to pay for Masses singly said for me immediately upon my death."

She asked her son Gil, who went on to become UB president, to carry out her wish. She died in 1987 with her head on her husband's chest.

Elusive Cordillera autonomy

By Maurice Malanes
La Trinidad, Benguet

THEY DID NOT BEAT GONGS and dance the *tadek* on Sept. 13 when they commemorated the 21st anniversary of the first peace agreement in the country signed between an armed group and the government under then President Corazon Aquino.

Instead, surviving leaders and members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) and the Cordillera Bodong Administration (CBA) sat down with government officials in a "peace and development forum" and reflected on the ultimate aim of what is now known as the Mt. Data Peace Accord of 1986.

That aim was regional autonomy. Although it remains a dream, it has become the cause of those who pushed for the accord.

They still consider autonomy or self-rule, especially in terms of managing and using the region's land and resources, as the path to peace and development that can check a long history of neglect.

That dream was the desire of the late CPLA chief, Fr. Conrado Balweg, and of his followers when they forged the pact with Aquino.

At that time, the Aquino administration, which promised "democratic space" after strongman Ferdinand Marcos was ousted in a civilian-backed military revolt in February 1986, provided an auspicious opportunity for peace making.

Talking peace

During the signing of the accord in Mt. Data in Bauko, Mt. Province, "we, in a way, taught the national government how to talk peace," Gabino Ganggangan, CBA secretary general, told the well-attended forum in La Trinidad, Benguet.

"Former President Fidel Ramos himself acknowledged that the government learned a lot from the Cordillera's peace initiative," said Ganggangan.

Unlike other armed groups, the CPLA immediately made peace with the government after it was formed in 1986, when its pioneers led by Balweg broke up with comrades in the New People's Army due to political and ideological differences.

"To set the record straight, those of us who joined the NPA [during Marcos' martial law regime] did not fight for communism. We fought mainly for our ancestral lands and resources," Ganggangan said.

He cited how under Marcos, wide swaths of forest and rice lands in Abra, Mt. Province, Kalinga and Apayao were threatened by Cellophil Resources Corp., a paper mill owned by a Marcos crony, and by the planned series of World Bank-funded dams in the Chico River.

Through Marcos' regionalization law in 1972, the provinces of what is now the Cordillera were politically divided. Benguet, Mt. Province and Abra became part of Region 1 (Ilocos) and Ifugao, Kalinga and Apayao belonged to Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).

BONTOC women dance during the celebration of Bontoc's 99th Foundation Day. Their people have been aspiring for Cordillera autonomy.
EV ESPIRITU

> Self-rule goal not yet lost on the people

This setup, according to Ganggangan, was aimed at "dismembering" the Cordillera, which was regarded as a vital resource base for the national government.

After the separation of the provinces, Marcos' controversial development programs followed and pushed the likes of Balweg to join the NPA.

The division of the Cordillera and Marcos' "development" programs led to the "one region, one people" battle cry of Balweg and other Igorot activists.

"This battle cry was the seed of what is now called Kaigorotan consciousness and the dream for regional autonomy," said Ganggangan.

The desire soon found its way into the peace agreement that Balweg signed with Aquino. To fulfill her pledge to give flesh to the accord, Aquino signed Executive Order No. 220 on July 15, 1987, which gave birth to the Cordillera Administrative Region.

The CAR was established in preparation for its autonomous status. Unfortunately, the Cordillera electorate rejected two proposed autonomy laws in two plebiscites—on Jan. 30, 1990 and on March 7, 1998.

But advocates, including Balweg's followers and those in government, maintain that the rejection of the proposed laws did not mean the death of autonomy itself.

Juan Ngalob, National Economic and Development Authority regional director, cited lack of information—if not misinformation—for the losses.

Kabayan (Benguet) Mayor Ernesto Matuday, who joined the peace and development forum in Baguio City, agreed.

During the past campaigns before the plebiscites, "I heard that some people came over to my town and butchered a pig but they never informed us about the benefits of regional autonomy," said Matuday.

"Another reason [for the rejection] was public distrust of some politicians who were already positioning themselves if the autonomous region was created," said Ngalob, chair of the Regional Development Council (RDC) which is now preparing the ground for another campaign.

Actually just a few steps away, autonomy can still be achieved through a "more scientific approach," Ngalob said.

He cited a tedious poll survey which the RDC would undertake to determine the reasons the electorates had voted against autonomy. Campaign materials will be prepared based on the survey results, he said.

"Let us take our steps slowly but surely," said Ngalob. "If the people of Quebec (in Canada) are still not giving up hope in their cause for independence (which began shortly after World War II), why should we easily give up our dream for autonomy after 21 years?"

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
for the
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1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of TWO MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php2,790,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Server, Bandwidth Manager and Hard Drive for xSeries Server for PSALM Corporation

Schedule	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Approved Budget for the Contract
I	Server	4	Units	Php 1,800,000.00
II	Bandwidth Manager	1	Lot	Php 450,000.00
III	Hard Drive for xSeries	18	Pcs	Php 540,000.00
Total				Php 2,790,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Server, Bandwidth Manager and Hard Drive for xSeries Server for PSALM Corporation The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183 Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) PER SCHEDULE shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) PER SCHEDULE who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (PhP2,500.00) The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
6. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 26 September 2007 at 10:00 AM at the 6th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 08 October 2007, 10:00 AM All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC), Bank guarantee (1 ½% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2 ½% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 08 October 2007 at 10:15 AM at the 6th floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend
9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
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7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel (02)8405046, Fax: (02)8930699
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SCHEDULE OF OTHER SEMINARS & ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 26, WEDNESDAY

SEMINAR ROOM 1

11:00a.m. - 11:45a.m.	Corporate Social Responsibility: Doing Well by Doing Good by **Mc Bride Corp.**
01:00p.m. - 01:45p.m.	R-Wear by **American Tech., Inc.**
02:00p.m. - 02:45p.m.	Menshen Innovative Packaging (weldspout, caps, and closures) by **Reifenhäuser German Trading Corp.**
03:00p.m. - 03:45p.m.	High Impact Presentation by **Gakken Phils.**
04:00p.m. - 04:45p.m.	Newest Trends in Optical and Inductive Sensors for Object Detection by **Festo, Inc.**
05:00p.m. - 05:45p.m.	From Recycle to Renewable... Plastic and Rubber Waste to Oil and Electricity by **Reifenhäuser German Trading Corp.**

SEMINAR ROOM 2

11:00a.m. - 11:45a.m.	Advance Application of Delta Products, Drive, Motion, Control & PLC's by **DAC Industrial**
01:00p.m. - 02:45p.m.	ADEKOM: Air Perfection by **Simpex Machinery**
03:00p.m. - 03:45p.m.	Redefining CAD with Functional Design: From 2D to 3D by **CIM Tech.**
04:00p.m. - 05:45p.m.	Aska Screen Printer "The Key to Solder Paste Printing Process" by **Jem Quantum Tech.**

SEMINAR ROOM 5

01:00p.m. - 01:45p.m.	New Generation XRF Analyzer for Alloy & ROHS by **Brownstone Asia-Tech**
02:00p.m. - 02:45p.m.	Trendsetter-The Most Advanced Next Generation Logging Multimeter with TrendCapture by **Access Frontier Tech.**
03:00p.m. - 03:45p.m.	Compliance with ISO 4427 = PE 80 Pte Quality Assurance by **JG Summit**
04:00p.m. - 06:00p.m.	Mid-Year Conference by **Metalworking Industries Assoc. of the Phils. (MIAP)**

SEPTEMBER 27, THURSDAY

SEMINAR ROOM 1

11:00a.m. - 11:45a.m.	Cleaning Electronic Assemblies by **Centiforce Instruments**
01:00p.m. - 01:45p.m.	Reifenhauser Film Extrusion Technology by **Reifenhäuser German Trading Corp.**
02:00p.m. - 02:45p.m.	The Difference between Bemcot Wiper and other Non-Woven Wipers (for Cleanroom Usage) by **Allkey International**
03:00p.m. - 03:45p.m.	Money Making ABC's by **Gakken Phils.**
04:00p.m. - 04:45p.m.	Intro to 3-Axis Bonder Tester Machine by **Technomotion Controls**
05:00p.m. - 05:45p.m.	Inke Refills Stations by **E-novation Digimer Corp.**

SEMINAR ROOM 2

11:00a.m. - 11:45a.m.	24/7 Printshop Ordering via Internet by **Fuji Xerox Phils., Inc.**
01:00p.m. - 01:45p.m.	Recorders and Data Acquisition Solutions by **Yokogawa Phils.**
02:00p.m. - 02:45p.m.	XRF Application on ROHS & Plating Thickness by **ArrowTech International Co.**
03:00p.m. - 03:45p.m.	ROHS by **Shimadzu**
04:00p.m. - 04:45p.m.	Re-inventing Packaging Solutions in a Cost-Effective & Innovative Options by **Sealed Air Phils.**

SEPTEMBER 28, FRIDAY

SEMINAR ROOM 1

10:00a.m. - 11:45p.m.	Versatility in Flexible Converting by **TPT International**
01:00p.m. - 01:45p.m.	Gravure Inks by **TPT International**
02:00p.m. - 02:45p.m.	VOIP for your Business by **Virtual Route**
03:00p.m. - 03:45p.m.	Air Demand Analysis: Know your Compressed Air Consumption by **Kaeser Kompressoren**
04:00p.m. - 04:45p.m.	XRF Application on ROHS & Plating Thickness by **ArrowTech Int'l. Co.**
05:00p.m. - 05:45p.m.	Qty. Inspection & Process Monitoring using Machine Vision by **Festo Inc.**

SEMINAR ROOM 2

11:00a.m. - 11:45a.m.	Working Beyond the Limits of Conventional Microscope - Olympus Laser Scanning, Microscope and Analysis Software by **QES Asia Pacific Sdn. Bhd.**
01:00p.m. - 01:45p.m.	FDM (Feeding, Dosing, Mixing) Material Handling Solutions by **Reifenhäuser German Trading Corp.**
02:00p.m. - 02:45p.m.	Air and Liquid Counting Tech. - Particle Measuring Systems by **Q-Trade Corp**
03:00p.m. - 03:45p.m.	Membrane Degassifier Tech. by **Q-Trade Corp.**
04:00p.m. - 04:45p.m.	Cleanroom Performance Testing Protocol by **Q-Trade Corp.**
05:00p.m. - 05:45p.m.	Advance Application of Delta Products, Drive, Motion, Control & PLC's by **DAC Industrial**

SEPTEMBER 29, SATURDAY

SEMINAR ROOM 1

10:00a.m. - 01:45p.m.	TPT International
02:00p.m. - 02:45p.m.	PLC Integrated Function for Process Optimization by **Festo Inc**
03:00p.m. - 03:45p.m.	Energy Saving Techniques in Compressed Air Production by **Kaeser Kompressoren**

SEMINAR ROOM 2

11:00a.m. - 11:45a.m.	Workplace Solutions by **Kimberly Clark**
01:00p.m. - 01:45p.m.	Video for Business & Prod'n by **TV Style**
02:00p.m. - 02:45p.m.	What is Evaporative Air Cooling? by **Maximum Sol.**
03:00p.m. - 03:45p.m.	Product Printing Sys. by **BRL Eng'g.**

SEMINAR ROOM 5

11:45a.m. - 01:45p.m.	Dynajet & Ceccato Prod. Presentation by **Monark Equip't.**
02:00p.m. - 02:45p.m.	Pre-press Right on your Desktop by **Gakken Phils.**

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1. Printing Industry Seminar of Pre-Press, Press and Post-Press, Digital Press, Hybrid Flexo CTP, U.V. Inks, and Self-Adhesive Labels *September 26 -29 (Seminar Room 4)*
2. Seminar by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME): Set -Up Reduction (Quick Changeover) and Just-In-Time (Kanban System) *September 27 (Seminar Room 3)*
3. Mechatronics & Robotics Society of the Philippines (MRSP) and Original Equipment Manufacturer's Assoc. of the Philippines (OEMAP) Seminars *September 27 (Seminar Room 5)*
4. 16th Philippine Welding Society Convention: Professionalizing Welding Manpower for Global Employment Competitiveness *September 26, 28 and 29 (Seminar Room 3)*

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JDV III very much JDV son; set to marry Dec.

From page A1

of adulation for the Chief Executive?

Joey, looking smart in a business suit, smiled and said he might try "madam President" instead.

MBA in finance

De Venecia III, who is separated from his first wife and has a 15-year-old son, has an accounting degree from the American University in Washington. He later earned an MBA in finance at Fordham University in New York.

He was an auditor for three years at Arthur Andersen & Co., one of the biggest accounting firms in the United States, before he returned to Manila and served as corporate finance consultant of its respected Philippine counterpart, SGV & Co.

Joey is one of four children of Speaker De Venecia with his first wife Victoria Perez. His mother is the daughter of former Speaker Eugenio Perez.

He's set to marry in December.

The young De Venecia has at one time or other been drawn in the political wars his father had waged.

During the Speaker's campaign for the presidency in 1998, the son's Multi-Media Telephony Inc. was accused of receiving preferential treatment from the National Telecommunications Commission in the bidding for cellular phone services.

The businessman dismissed the charges as nothing more than a political smear campaign directed at his father.

During yesterday's hearing, De Venecia III admitted a strain had developed in his relationship with his father as a result of his revelations on the broadband deal.

Asked by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada if he will change his position on the ZTE deal if the Palace allies in the House of Representatives oust the speaker.

Independent of each other

"My father and I are independent of each other," said the young De Venecia.

"But he is Speaker of the House. He is allied with the President. He is president of Lakas (the pro-administration coalition).

"If there is any movement against him, then I think that with all the help he has given to this administration and if they try to unseat him then I think that's the worst thing that they could do to a man who has been loyal, who has been trying to follow his vision to improve the country.

"I will not retract on any statement I've made. I expect to be also invited in the House for an investigation so I will say the same thing there as I said here," said De Venecia III.

ADMIRED and congratulated for his boldness, the young De Venecia rues that he has had to pay a price for being forthcoming, including a "strained" relationship with his father and namesake, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. ROGER MARGALLO

'He is his own man'

De Venecia begged off from giving interviews on yesterday's hearing, preferring that his son enjoy Andy Warhol's so-called 15 minutes of fame.

Instead, the Speaker released a statement vouching for his son's "own moral principles."

"He is his own man, strong enough to stand up for them," De Venecia said.

He also said that it was incumbent upon both his son and the President's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo to be "transparent to our people" in the controversial contract.

"My son appeared before the joint Senate hearings in his own right as a stockholder of Amsterdam Holdings Inc., "De Venecia said in his one-page statement.

"He has assured full responsibility before the joint committees for his actions and revelations, which he provided under oath," he added.

De Venecia said it will now be up to the Senate if his son, a major stockholder of AHI that bid for the NBN contract, was telling the truth in raising the allegations against Mr Arroyo.

"The people have the right to know the truth, nothing less," De Venecia said. *With a report from Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

GMA's House allies in disarray; kin to the defense

From page A1

sor said. "The congressmen are loyal to both the President and the Speaker."

Testifying before the Senate blue ribbon committee, De Venecia, the Speaker's son, named Arroyo as the "mystery man" who told him to back off the National Broadband Network (NBN) project that would provide an Internet connection to all government offices. *(Story on this page.)*

De Venecia's company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., had wanted to implement the project, but the Chinese firm, ZTE Corp., eventually bagged the contract.

"I don't know how it will affect the political setup. I don't know if the father (Speaker Jose de Venecia) knows what the son is doing," Garcia said.

A statement from the Speaker's office said the charges had no effect on the stability of the administration coalition in the House or its "resolve" to enact priority measures identified in the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.

The elder De Venecia himself begged off from further commenting and wanted his son to be "the news, not him," according to one of his staff members. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, Kampi president, refused to comment. He said he would first await developments in the coming days.

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, the President's brother-in-law, was similarly guarded. "Let's just watch out for it," he told the Inquirer in Filipino.

But later, in a separate interview with the Inquirer in Bacolod City, Iggy said: "Joey de Venecia has gone off his rocker. My brother is innocent."

"It's not true. It's not in my brother's character to threaten anyone. He's being made the fall guy here again. I don't know what's with Joey de Venecia," Iggy said.

He said his brother had never met with De Venecia on the NBN deal or any other matter.

He also said his brother was on vacation in Hong Kong and might proceed to the United States or Europe.

"But he does not run away from a fight. When he comes back he will face his accusers," Iggy said.

The President's eldest child, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, said it was De Venecia who could be principally liable under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for bidding on a government project despite his being the Speaker's son.

"I have no knowledge about this project for two things," Mikey said.

For one, he cited the law that says that "no relative of the President, the Vice President, the Senate President or the Speaker up to the fourth degree of consanguinity should be involved in a government project."

For a second reason, he said: "There is no contract. There have been many budget hearings and there was not even one mention [of allocations being made for payment of the broadband network deal]."

He said his father might not be liable under the antigraft law because De Venecia himself had said at the Senate inquiry that the President's husband was never involved in the discussions for the NBN project.

No problem with Speaker

Mikey Arroyo also said he did not know if the supposed meeting at which both his father and De Venecia were present had actually happened.

"I really don't know," he said. "I don't know my father's dealings and I am not his spokesman."

He said his concern now was for his father's health in the wake of De Venecia's testimony: "He already had a triple bypass. I'm not sure how this will affect him."

Asked if De Venecia's testimony would affect the administration coalition which is anchored on the alliance between Ms Arroyo and the Speaker, Mikey Arroyo said: "No, I don't think so."

Iggy said the Arroyos still supported the Speaker.

"We have no problem with the Speaker," Iggy said, adding that the family's problem was with Joey de Venecia.

Iggy said the coalition leaders should start discussing the controversy because it was starting to affect the administration.

He also said it pained the family to see the President's husband again being portrayed in a bad light.

Said Arroyo's youngest child, Camarines Sur Rep. Dato Arroyo: "The First Gentleman can defend himself. Personally, I don't believe the Speaker's son."

'Smells a plot'

In a statement, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said she "smells a plot" meant to bring the scandal to the President herself, and to create intrigue between her and Speaker De Venecia.

"The political noise has reached very high decibels. Producing that kind of noise is very expensive. So where is the money coming from?" asked Santiago, vice chair of the Senate finance committee.

Minority view

However, House Minority Floor Leader Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan said he hoped the majority coalition would be polarized "in order for our interest for the truth to come out be better served."

"I hope they see that there is still a much larger interest than the fortunes of the majority coalition," Zamora told the Inquirer. "Joey de Venecia's revelations are detailed … and they must be answered."

Garcia said De Venecia's revelations—along with the Senate's revival of the "Hello Garci" controversy involving alleged wiretapped conversations between former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and Ms Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election—should be seen in the context of the 2010 race to Malacañang. He did not elaborate.

Both Garcia and Villafuerte belong to the faction of Kampi that launched a failed bid to deny Speaker De Venecia a fifth term at the start of the 14th Congress.

Speaker cleared

Among the Speaker's leading campaigners then was Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, chair of Kampi. Iggy Arroyo, along with his nephews Mikey and Dato, eventually threw their support behind the elder De Venecia.

"Certainly, what the son is doing is not doing any good to Malacañang and to the friends of the President," Garcia said.

Iggy Arroyo said he was convinced that the Speaker "had nothing to do" with his son's decision to come out and implicate the First Gentleman.

"I know he (Speaker) is not behind this," he said, "(but) I hope he would enlighten his son."

Garcia said he was wondering about the manner by which the younger De Venecia had exposed alleged irregularities in the NBN deal, culminating in the allegation that the President's husband had a role in it.

"He could have immediately mentioned the name," he said, "but there was a buildup. It seemed that he was trying to build excitement. Whether that was part of the plan, I don't know," the Kampi leader said.

Downplay

Davao Rep. Prospero Nograles, another Malacañang ally belonging to the Speaker's camp, downplayed the allegation, citing young De Venecia's account that Mike Arroyo had threatened him into withdrawing his bid for the lucrative broadband project.

In his testimony, De Venecia said the First Gentleman had told him to "back off" while pointing a finger at him about "two inches from his nose."

"I took it to mean something like 'do not rock the boat anymore because it's already finished,'" Nograles said. *With a report from Carla Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

Brave kidney donor was afraid of needle

From page A1

may nearly back out of the transplant operation.

Thus quipped the longtime driver of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez as he recounted to the Inquirer yesterday what he went through when he decided to donate a kidney to his boss.

It wasn't the first time that their lives were on the edge.

Gonzalez and Gunay were also together in June 1991 when they were caught by heavy ashfall during Mt. Pinatubo's eruption that nearly buried their car.

Interviewed in his room at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the 50-year-old Gunay said the physical checkup he went through as part of the preparations for the transplant was a greater ordeal than the operation itself.

Extensive checkup

He said an extensive checkup was necessary before having his kidney removed and that he was briefed about the process that he would have to go through.

"Being jabbed with needles was more painful than the operation," Guray said, pointing to the areas in his arms where the needles had gone through.

He further joked: "Having your tooth pulled out is more painful."

Waking up from the operation with one of his kidneys gone, Gunay said he felt some pain from the surgical wound but was generally fine.

He said he did not feel as if anything was missing from his body and he was able to move around his room right next to Gonzalez's, after being brought there from the recovery section.

Secret from the family

Gonzalez's driver of 28 years said he kept his decision to donate his kidney a secret from his family—but it did not take them long to figure out.

"I did not want them to worry," Guray said, speaking in Filipino. "If I had told them, they would have tried to dissuade me and I might have agreed with them."

It was only after the operation was scheduled that he told his wife, Mona Lisa, but he asked her to tell no one else.

"She understood why and was proud that I was saving the secretary's life," Gunay said.

Battling Pinatubo ashfall

The transplant took place on Friday. Gonzalez is already out of intensive care and is being watched for signs of rejection.

Gunay was discharged yesterday from the hospital but he said he wanted to return to the NKTI to join the watch over his boss.

It isn't unusual for Gunay to share life-threatening experiences with Gonzalez.

The two also battled through ashfall from Mt. Pinatubo in 1991. They were on their way to Zambales, the province of Gonzalez's wife, Pacita, when Pinatubo blew up after centuries of slumber.

Caught by the eruption, they slept in their car on the road and saw the vehicle's roof cave in and its wheels get partly buried in ash.

Same blood type

"I had to dig out the car, otherwise he (Gonzalez) wouldn't have been able to get out. Even the wheels were buried in ash," Gunay said.

In all his years as a driver, he said he had never placed his employer's life at risk, never having been in an accident.

When Gonzalez was hospitalized last month for bleeding ulcers, who else but Gunay donated blood for Gonzalez. They have the same blood type, B.

When love bloomed

Gunay said that Mona Lisa had likewise served in the Gonzalez household and that it was in the Gonzalez house where they first met—and fell in love.

The other members of the Gunay clan found out about his kidney donation only after news broke out that the secretary had had a transplant and that he was the donor.

"They were happy that I was able to help the man who is like a parent to me," Gunay said. "The secretary and I have been together far longer than I and my wife have been together."

No money involved

Gunay is willing to drive again for Gonzalez. He said his doctors told him he would be able to resume his normal life although he would have to limit his drinking to "*pa shot-shot na lang* (just a few shots)" since he had to closely watch his remaining kidney.

Gunay said he did not ask for payment in return for his act but was very happy about Iloilo Rep. Raul Gonzalez Jr.'s statement that his family would be cared for.

Gunay, one of seven children in his family, used to be a jeepney driver in Iloilo when he decided to work for Gonzalez in Manila. The Gonzalezes were neighbors of his parents in Iloilo, he said.

Since becoming Gonzalez's driver, Gunay has never worked in another job.

His wife, Mona Lisa, and their three daughters (not four as earlier reported)—Nacia Marie,14; Cleofe Rose, 10; and Liza, 8—live in La Castillana, Bacolod City.

Pleasure of giving

Gunay goes to Bacolod about twice a year, with his Christmases usually spent with the Gonzalezes in Manila. He goes to his family for the New Year's Day celebration.

Gonzalez's grandchildren call him "Lolo Muroy."

There is pleasure in giving, even if it means losing one of your vital organs, Gunay said.

"When there is someone in need, don't deny them your help. It feels good to help other people," he said.

Will the President keep Gonzalez?

DAPITAN CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is keeping people guessing about whether she will let go of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

After a dinner Monday at the Dakak resort here where she spent the night, Ms Arroyo said she was happy that Gonzalez, 76, had a successful kidney transplant operation.

For now, Ms Arroyo said all she wanted was for Gonzalez to rest "and not think of any problems in the Department of Justice."

She brushed off talk that her staunch ally might retire.

"We'll assess. Anyway he's on leave for one month, so we'll assess after one month," Ms Arroyo told reporters.

The Department of Justice is being run by Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, whom Ms Arroyo has designated as acting secretary. *Christine O. Avendano*

UN, WB INITIATIVE

No safe haven for corrupt leaders' stolen assets

UNITED NATIONS—THE UNITed Nations and the World Bank on Monday launched an initiative to make it easier for governments in developing countries to recover stolen assets that corrupt leaders have stashed in rich countries at the rate of $40 billion a year.

The Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative aims to encourage rich countries to return the loot and for developing countries to properly invest the recovered funds in antipoverty programs.

"There should be no safe haven for people who steal from the poor," World Bank president Robert Zoellick said in presenting the plan with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Until now, developing countries have encountered legal and other obstacles in the tracing and recovering looted funds.

It took the Philippines, for example, 18 years to repatriate $624 million stashed by deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a Swiss bank account. Last year, Nigeria ended a five-year battle to recover $500 million parked in a Swiss bank by former dictator Sani Abacha, who is believed to have siphoned off as much as $5 billion from Nigeria in just five years.

At present, the World Bank is in the early stages of working with Haiti to recover funds stolen by Jean-Claude Duvalier, or Baby Doc, who succeeded his father, Francois, as the ruler of Haiti in 1971.

Flow of criminal proceeds

The World Bank estimates that cross-border flow of global proceeds from criminal activities, corruption and tax evasion ranges from $1 trillion to $1.6 trillion.

The problem of stolen assets is widespread but most acute in Africa, where an estimated 25 percent of the gross national product of states is lost to corruption at the cost of about $148 billion every year, according to Zoellick.

He said that the recovery of even a small portion of the stolen funds could bankroll much-needed social programs.

Every $100 million recovered, for instance, could pay for the full immunization of 4 million children, provide water connection to 250,000 households, or finance for the treatment for a year for more than 600,000 people afflicted with HIV/AIDS.

The StAR initiative is being developed in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, whose executive director, Antonio Maria Costa, said the program's launch came at a time when the sophistication of financial transactions made recovery an increasingly complex process requiring expert assistance.

The new system will work to build the capacity of developing countries to track stolen money going overseas and to emphasize ways that financial centers can better detect and deter money laundering.

Not developing nations' issue

"This is not just a developing-country issue because the funds inevitably end up in developed countries," Danny Leipziger, the World Bank vice president for poverty reduction and economic management, told a briefing before the launch of the StAR initiative.

Zoellick said he hoped the StAR initiative would improve cooperation between rich and poor countries over the recovery of stolen assets.

Leipziger said the World Bank would also bring pressure on financial centers in developed nations to adopt "the highest standards of behavior in terms of money laundering."

These financial centers should also increase the transparency and adopt best-practices for accepting funds from outside their borders, Zoellick added.

"To be successful we have to get the attention of the developed countries and make sure they understand the gravity of the situation," he said.

"There have been changes in the behavior of some like the Swiss, who understand that it's not good for the reputation of major financial institutions, to say nothing of countries, to be associated with billions of dollars of stolen funds from corrupt leaders in poor countries."

The World Bank chief is hoping the StAR initiative will encourage more countries to ratify the UN Convention Against Corruption, a 2005 anticorruption treaty ratified by only 92 countries. The signatories are obliged to return stolen assets to the country from which it was looted.

Among the Group of Eight industrialized nations, only Canada, Germany, Italy and Japan have not ratified the pact. Switzerland, Ireland and Luxembourg are among the member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which are considered to be offshore banking centers but have not ratified the UN convention.

Zoellick said he knew of no opposition by countries who had not yet ratified the treaty, adding that the delay had more to do with passing legislation.

Strong deterrent

UN's Ban Ki-moon told the news conference the StAR initiative would ensure looted assets were returned to their rightful owners.

"Together let us make the initiative into a strong deterrent for those who may be tempted to steal public funds and let us use it to strengthen the capacity of governments to improve the lives of millions of people," he said.

Zoellick said the StAR initiative was part of the World Bank's overall strategy to fight corruption in developing countries.

The bank will provide financial and technical assistance to strengthen institutions in developing countries and to ensure domestic laws complied with the UN anticorruption treaty.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the former Nigerian finance minister who oversaw the return of $500 million to her country from Switzerland, said the StAR initiative marked a first step toward "rebalancing" responsibilities in the fight against corruption.

No safe haven

"Developing countries need to fight corruption and stem the flow of illicit funds, and developed countries must make sure there is no safe haven for those funds in their countries," Okonjo-Iweala said.

"If the two sides cooperate, the people who are corrupt will know that any money that goes out will be sent back to the country from which it came." *Reports from Reuters, AFP and New York Times News Service*

FG foes not surprised; karma, says Erap son

From page A1

convicted Joseph Estrada, said the latest controversy involving the Arroyos was a result of karma.

Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla said it was not unexpected that Arroyo was named by Jose "Joey" de Venecia III in yesterday's inquiry at the Senate as the "mystery man" who had threateningly told him to back off the broadband project.

Padilla, who had earlier delivered a privilege speech questioning the NBN deal cornered by China's ZTE Corp., said Arroyo's name cropped up when he was doing research on the deal. But he did not name Arroyo in his speech because "it was still a long shot at that time," he said.

"When De Venecia started talking about a 'mystery man,' I became even more suspicious," Padilla said in Filipino.

De Venecia, son and namesake of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, owns Amsterdam Holdings Inc., one of the companies that had expressed interest in the NBN project.

That reputation

"I expected it. He has that reputation," Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said of Arroyo, who survived a risky heart operation in April and is under instruction from his doctors to avoid controversies and other occasions of stress.

Casiño said any inquiry into the NBN deal would ultimately reach the President, who had witnessed the signing of a contract with ZTE in Boao, China.

"If the First Gentleman is the 'mystery man,' it doesn't take much to conclude who the mystery woman is," Casiño said. "Above all, she should be held accountable for the NBN deal."

Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros said the Arroyo administration was "rich with onerous deals."

"The First Gentleman should return ... and answer the charges," she said in a press conference.

Hontiveros said De Venecia's testimony at the Senate had strengthened the impeachment case that the minority bloc was building against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

De Venecia had earlier accused Abalos of brokering the NBN deal with the Chinese firm and attempting to bribe him to withdraw.

P16B at least

In the reckoning of Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, the scandals purportedly involving the President's husband are now worth at least P16 billion.

"This is not the first time that Mr. Arroyo's name cropped up in a multibillion[-peso] scandal since Mrs. Arroyo became President," Maza said in a statement.

"This is hardly coincidence. Mr. Arroyo is now worth P16-P17 billion in scandals," she said.

Maza observed that Arroyo had also been accused of laundering P321 million and depositing the amount under the name "Jose Pidal." (The account was later claimed by his younger brother, now Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.)

The President's husband was also linked to the P728-million fertilizer fund scam whose alleged architect was ex-Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, Maza noted.

She added that Arroyo was similarly implicated in the irregular construction of the President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, and was named as among the recipients of "jueteng" payoffs.

Arroyo has denied these allegations.

What they deserve

Mayor Ejercito said the controversies hounding Arroyo and his wife were proof that those who committed wrongdoing would eventually get what they deserve.

"All these scandals coming out are karma on GMA and her cohorts," Ejercito said almost a week after his father, ousted President Estrada, was convicted of plunder on two counts by the Sandiganbayan Special Division.

"I never thought karma would come so soon," he said, adding that these scandals showed the Arroyo administration as the worst.

Ejercito said De Venecia's testimony on the NBN deal would pave the way for the downfall of the Arroyo administration and the eventual vindication of his father.

"As I have said, it's just a matter of time for President Estrada to be vindicated," he said.

Arroyo should explain

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, an administration lawmaker, said Arroyo should shed light on the part he played in the NBN deal.

"That's a very serious matter and I think the First Gentleman owes the Filipino people an explanation," Cuenco said.

He said he knew the young De Venecia as a good person, and pointed out that the latter had made his testimony at the Senate under oath.

"Though it's unfair to make a judgment, it's either Joey de Venecia is not telling the truth or the other party is lying," Cuenco said, adding:

"That's why the First Gentleman must see to it that he will give a credible answer to avoid letting the issue affect the administration of President Arroyo." *With reports from Kristine L. Alave in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan in Cebu City*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
September 19, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position	Nationality or Citizenship
1.	MANILA SPIRITS, INC. Aguinaldo Highway, Palico IV, Imus, Cavite	Mr. Naoto Shimura	Consultant	Japanese
2.	ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. PTC-SEZ, Bo. Maduya, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Taniguchi Hiroshi	Machine Control Department Manager	Japanese
3.	ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. PTC-SEZ, Bo. Maduya, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Kazuhisa Furusawa	Tr/Di Production Department Manager	Japanese
4.	SHINKOZAN CORPORATION Bo. Bancal, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Hsiung-Feng Chen	General Manager	Taiwanese
5.	TOKYO BYOKANE PHILIPPINES CORP. CIP II, Brgy. Punta, Calamba City	Mr. Keun Woo Park	Manager	Korean

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI--Sept. 19, 2007)

Home Guaranty Corporation
Office of the President

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR THE NEGOTIATED DISPOSITION OF APEC VILLA 9, 10 & 11

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is inviting all interested parties to submit proposals for the disposition of its **"leasehold rights"** on the following properties located at Triboa Bay, Subic Freeport Zone, Olongapo City on a "negotiated" retail basis (sale, lease and other similar or variant schemes):

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	REMARKS
1	APEC Villa No. 9	one storey house	436	fully furnished, vacant
2	APEC Villa No. 10	two storey house	440	fully furnished, vacant
3	APEC Villa No. 11	two storey house	433	fully furnished, vacant

** Lease Term : 50 years*

- The sale of the properties shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis;
- Terms of Payment may be in cash or installment for outright sale proposal;
- Offers for lease must indicate the proposed terms of lease including provision for escalation of lease rate; and
- For other similar or variant scheme, the proposed terms of sale must be indicated.

HGC reserves the right to require additional information from the offeror as it deems necessary to fully understand and evaluate the offer(s).

Interested parties are encouraged to inspect the property before tendering their offers.

Details pertaining to the properties as well as the guidelines for the negotiation can be obtained from the HGC's Asset Management and Disposition Group (AMDG) office located at the 4th Floor of Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City from **September 17 to 21, 2007** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P 5,000.00**.

The Financial proposals/offers shall be sealed and dropped at the designated box located at the HGC's AMDG office on **September 27, 2007.**

For inquiries, please call the Marketing and Sales Department at tel. nos. 896-04-25 & 897-34-18 or visit our office at 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
Vice President
Asset Management & Disposition Group

(PDI--Sept. 19 & 20, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development – Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos (054) 473-89-36
E-mail Address bac bicolmed@yahoo.com.ph
Fax No (054) 473-89-36
Website http //www doh gov ph/bmc/index htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1 The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**, through **General Appropriations Act** intends to apply specified sum for the following projects:

a) **Project** : **PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS MEDICAL GRADE GASES (RE-BID) (IAEB No. 2007-18)**

Approved Budget for the Contract **PESOS TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED ONLY (PhP 2,999,700.00)**

Sale of Bid Documents : September 19 to 26, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference : September 26, 2007 – 9 00 A M , BMC Library
Bid Opening : October 8, 2007 – 9.00 A M , BMC Library
Price of Bid Documents : ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP1,500 00)

b) **Project** : **PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS IT & OFFICE EQUIPMENT (IAEB No. 2007-19)**

Approved Budget for the Contract: **PESOS ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ONLY (PhP 1,400,500.00)**

Sale of Bid Documents : September 19 to 26, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference : September 26, 2007 – 2.00 P M , BMC Library
Bid Opening : October 8, 2007 – 2 00 P M , BMC Library
Price of Bid Documents : ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP 1,500.00)

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

2. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. Deliveries of the goods are stated on the schedule of requirements.

The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R A. 5183) Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents. ITB The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon; 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**, except weekends and Holidays

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for the project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as stated above The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative

6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above The bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:

1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	**(1% of ABC)**
2. Bank guarantee	**(1.5% of ABC)**
3. GSIS Surety Bond	**(2.5% of ABC)**

Late bids shall not be accepted

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below

8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Contact Address BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-8936
E-mail Address bac_bicolmed@yahoo.com.ph
Fax No (054) 473-8936
Website http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Contact Person JENSY S. ONG, MD, FPOA
Chairman

(Sgd.) JENSY S. ONG, MD, FPOA
Chairman

(PDI–September 19, 2007)

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SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

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DID YOU KNOW

MANY streets in Manila, mostly located in Sampaloc district, have been named after characters in Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo, Dr. Jose P. Rizal's novels. Some of these names are Maria Clara, Crisostomo, Sisa, Basilio, Simoun, Elias and Tiago.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Parents of rape-slay victim OK DNA test

Girl could still be alive, says cop

By Tina G. Santos and Allison W. Lopez

THE PARENTS OF GERALDINE PALMA, THE 7-YEAR-OLD GIRL who was kidnapped and raped, yesterday gave authorities the go-signal to exhume their daughter's body and subject it to a DNA test.

"This is to erase doubts that it was not my daughter," Gerald, the victim's father, told reporters at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) office. "Who would want to see his child dead? *Sana nga hindi na lang si* Geraldine yon (I wish it were not Geraldine). I wish I was wrong. But I'm 150 percent sure it was her."

"I only hope they do it right away because her body's already decomposing and the tests will take at least three weeks," he added.

Gerald and his wife went to the NBI after the Manila Police District (MPD), which is also investigating the case, claimed that the body which was stuffed inside a suitcase found last month in North Harbor, Tondo was not that of their daughter.

Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, head of the MPD homicide division, said he suspected that Geraldine was still alive.

He based his suspicion on the records of St. Paul College, where Geraldine was enrolled, showing that the girl was 3 feet, 10 inches tall. The body inside the suitcase measured 4 feet, 2 inches.

According to Yanquiling, a mole on the the victim's back was the Palmas' only basis for saying that the body was that of their daughter's.

Gerald, meanwhile, admitted that he was hurt by Yanquiling's statements.

"It's as if he was saying that I don't know my own child. I know he's just doing his job. But why only now? He should have said those things earlier. He's starting the investigation backwards," he said.

Felma, the victim's mother, confirmed that at first, she had doubts that the body in the suitcase was that of her daughter because "the girl's nose was flat."

"But it could have been her and the features also looked different because the body was bloated. They had the same build. But it's fine with me if they have her body dug up so that the truth will come out," she said.

Despite the recent developments in the case, Gerald maintained that what happened was a case of kidnapping.

"I still believe it's still a kidnapping incidnet unless Marites (Ontog, the girl's nanny) shows up and reveals what really happened," he said.

Gerald likewise denied rumors that he had his daughter insured.

"It's not true. I'm the one who's insured and she was one of my beneficiaries. I never thought she'd go first," he said.

The police's case against the five suspects in the Palma rape-slay case may end up being weak if the body is not that of the young girl's, the city chief prosecutor said.

Manila Chief Prosecutor Jhosep Lopez said the credibility of the witnesses would suffer if they had identified the girl in the suitcase as Palma.

"It's already with the court so it's up to

PARENTS/ A24

UP frat violence forum seeks justice for Mendez

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN OFFICIAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, yesterday issued a twin challenge: One to witnesses in the suspected hazing death of public administration student, Cris Anthony Mendez, and the other to members of the fraternity believed to be involved in his death.

"If you really want to help, then tell us. Come clean," lawyer Marvie Leonen, UP vice president for legal affairs, said at a forum on hazing called "Et tu brod? Searching for Justice against Fraternity Violence" held at the UP Law Center.

Most of his statements, however, were directed at the fraternity Mendez was believed to have joined before his death.

"You know who you are," Leonen said.

"You have gotten lawyers but the law cannot help you assuage your consciences."

"If you think you have courage, if you think you have honor, if you think you have integrity, this is your shining moment. Do not escape your moral responsibility," he added, stressing, "If you want to sue the university, bring it on."

Although Leonen did not mention the name of the fraternity, he was obviously referring to Sigma Rho whose officials were recently placed on preventive suspension following Mendez's death. The group has threatened to file a case against the UP if the suspension order is not lifted.

Admitting that there were many legal remedies that those involved in Mendez's death could avail of, Leonen said, "I have two surnames for you: Villanueva and Mendez."

He was referring to Mendez and Marlon

UP FRAT/ A24

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Lim pushes for repeal of 'allowance ordinance' to dads

By Allison W. Lopez

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO Lim yesterday called the ordinance giving a P3 million "monetary reward" to local officials who had served three consecutive terms "self-serving," and said he would push for its repeal.

"I will write a letter for its repeal because it's not good. It's self-serving, it's for the self-interest of those who approved the law," Lim said.

The mayor said he would ask the six councilors who received over P1.6 million each as "initial payment" in 2005 to return the money.

Ordinance No. 8040, enacted by the city council on Dec. 7, 2000, authorized the conferment of an exemplary public service award (Epsa)—consisting of a plaque, retirement and gratuity pay remuneration amounting to at least P3 million—to city officials who had served for three consecutive terms in the same position.

Those qualified for the Epsa were the mayor, vice mayor and city councilors.

So far, only six councilors who served from 1995 to 2004 have benefited from the ordinance: Incumbent Councilors Marlon Lacson, who authored the ordinance; Luciano "Lou" Veloso; Jocelyn Dawis-Asuncion and Monina "Pipay" Silva, the beneficiary of her late husband, former Councilor Hilarion "Pipoy" Silva.

The others are Abraham Cabochan and Julio Logarta Jr.

All six served in the city council for three consecutive terms from 1995 to 2004.

However, then supervising city auditor Gabriel Espina said the payment of the monetary reward was approved and authorized by the city council "without legal basis."

Based on Espina's comment, the Commission on Audit issued a notice of disallowance in May 2006 ordering the six councilors to return the over P1.6 million they had each received.

No one has complied so far with the COA directive. The six instead filed a motion to lift the notice of disallowance at the City Auditor's Office.

Lacson, meanwhile, told the INQUIRER, that he believed Ordinance No. 8040 remained "valid" despite the COA's findings.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's valid. If the mayor does write us a letter, that will be the only time I will react," he said.

Lacson also shared Veloso's view that councilors oftentimes ended up spending their own money to help their constituents because what they were receiving in salary and benefits were not enough.

"But in case they ask us to return the money, I won't be able to return anything because I've already spent it," he said, adding that he recently underwent three operations for pancreatitis.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Asuncion and Silva for comment but they did not return calls made to their offices.

Retirement pay worth P600,000 lost to robbers

By Kristine L. Alave

JUAN GUTIERREZ JR., A 54-year-old former employee of Union Ajinomoto Inc., was ready to enjoy his retirement pay .

But instead of spending it on a vacation, Gutierrez and his wife Conchita, landed in the hospital on Monday after four unidentified armed suspects followed them from a Pasig City bank, where they withdrew his retirement benefits, and shot them when they refused to turn over the money.

Gutierrez told Pasig City police that four armed security guards saw the incident but made no move to help them, enabling the suspects to get away, taking P600,000 with them.

A police report said the couple withdrew the money from a Bank of the Philippine Islands branch in Barangay Bagong Ilog in Pasig City on Monday morning. Shortly after boarding a cab, they noticed two men on a motorcycle tailing them. One of the men drew a gun and overtook their cab as it traveled along C-5 Avenue.

Before reaching the SM Warehouse along C-5, two men onboard another motorbike joined the chase, Pasig City police chief Sr. Supt. Frank Uyami said. The cab driver drove to an open gate of SM Warehouse in an attempt to lose the suspects.

However, the suspects followed them and tried to get the couple's money at gunpoint. In the struggle, Conchita was shot in the foot and the leg while Juan suffered a grazed wound on the left side of his body.

The victims were rushed to the Medical City in Pasig for treatment. Police found two spent shells from a .45 caliber pistol at the crime scene.

DRIVE AGAINST SMUT

Manila policemen destroy pornographic magazines and DVDs recovered from vendors in Quiapo, Manila, yesterday. Those arrested will be charged with violation of the Revised Penal Code 201 (Selling of Pornographic Materials) in the Manila City Prosecutor's Office. REM ZAMORA

Parents reunited with missing daughter

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

A 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS reunited with her parents on Monday afternoon after the woman who took her tried to sell her to two security guards of a television network who in turn called up the police.

The parents of Pamela Ingrid Magpayo rushed to the Quezon City Police District Station 10 after they were informed that their daughter, who disappeared while playing in front of their house in Pasay City on Sunday night, was there.

On the other hand, the woman who took her, Jennifer Salvador, was arrested by the police.

Magpayo was rescued after Salvador took her to the GMA 7 building on Edsa, Quezon City on Monday and tried to sell her to security guards Manuel Lucero and Mechille Dimalaluan for P800.

Thinking that the suspect was joking, Dimalaluan asked her if she could have the girl for P500.

The guards said they became suspicious of Salvador after they noticed that the victim was crying the whole time, prompting them to call the police.

The suspect, meanwhile, told the police that she merely "rescued" the victim because she was playing in an unsafe place. The suspect's parents later turned up at the police station to claim that their daughter was mentally ill although they could not present any medical certificate to prove it.

The victim's parents, Allan and Christina, said they were happy to be reunited with their daughter who disappeared a day before her third birthday.

'MMDA traffic improvements to cut travel time to provinces'

By DJ Yap

THE SUMMER CAPITAL OF Baguio may soon be just a three-hour ride away, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday.

The usual six-hour travel time from Manila to Baguio may be cut by as much as three hours if only the highways are cleared of obstructions, and better traffic engineering is put in place, the MMDA official said.

Even better, it is possible to reach Baguio without taking the North Luzon Expressway at a speed of 80 kilometers per hour, Fernando said in a statement.

Traveling to the northern city normally takes between six and eight hours, but along the way, motorists have to contend with a host of problems, from obstructions like shanties and vendors on the sidewalks to poor traffic enforcement.

In particular, Fernando cited the makeshift shanties and illegal vendors that occupy the sidewalks along MacArthur Highway, Manila North Road and the lateral streets connecting them.

On a recent trip to Baguio, Fernando said the traffic on MacArthur Highway from Bulacan to Pangasinan was "chaotic," particularly in the town proper because of vendors, illegal parking and informal settlers.

He said the MMDA would study the traffic conditions in the provinces between Manila and Baguio and come up with recommendations for President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval.

Recently, the MMDA extended its traffic management duties to roads leading to Bacoor, Cavite and Laguna, following a directive from the President to help solve the traffic problems in these provinces.

Part-time jobs for qualified Muntinlupa City students

By Julie M. Aurelio

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN MUNtinlupa City will soon be given a chance to work part-time for a popular fast-food chain.

The city government recently announced its partnership with the McDonald's chain of restaurants in providing part-time employment to students in the city.

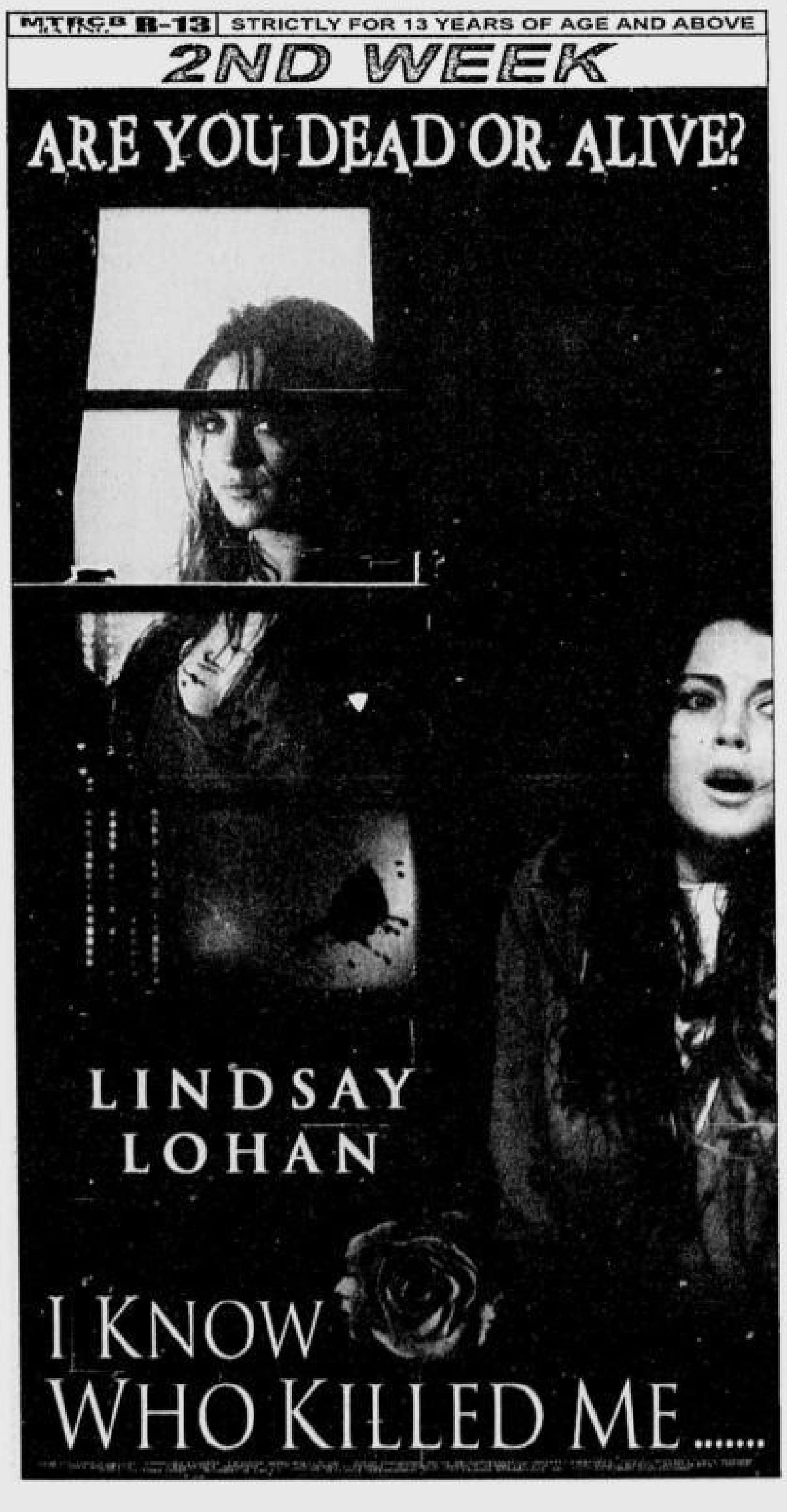
Dubbed "McHanapbuhay Ka," the program will allow McDonald's to employ on a part-time basis students enrolled in the city's colleges, depending on their class schedules.

"This agreement ensures the employment of our residents. We thank McDonald's for leading the way in increasing employment opportunities," Mayor Aldrin San Pedro said.

The mayor signed an agreement with Dennis de Guzman of Gold Arches Development Corp., and the managers of the different McDonald's outlets at Ayala Alabang, Festival Supermall, Northgate Cyberzone in Filinvest Corporate City and Southmall in Las Piñas City.

The venture with the fast-food chain is part of the Public Employment Service Office's "Oplan: Tulong Aral May Hanapbuhay Ka" employment program for Muntinlupa City residents.

San Pedro added that all McDonald's branches in Muntinlupa City will only hire residents enrolled in different colleges in the city as part-time crew members.



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Parents of rape-slay ...

From page A23

the court to decide. We based it on the evidence of the police identifying the corpse as that of Geraldine Palma's ... But I think they (accused) can file a motion to quash the information or a motion to dismiss. The court might dismiss it because there's no case to speak of if that is not Palma's body," he said.

Ramil Diorico, Raffy Nepa, Renato "Rick-Rick" Bohol, Joey Igos and alleged mastermind Henry "Hemlet" Tesado had been charged with rape with homicide at the Manila Regional Trial Court. They were tagged by their supposed cohorts, Rosdam Mesias and Domingo Agnote, who turned state witnesses, and a certain "Berta."

Lopez added that it was up to the judge to decide whether or not to dismiss the charges.

"If the witness can prove that the suspects committed a crime against the victim even though the girl found in the suitcase was not Palma, we will continue the case but amend the information," he said.

UP frat violence ...

From page A23

Villanueva, a UP Los Baños student who is also believed to have died of hazing-related injuries.

Mendez was brought on Aug. 27 to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where a doctor declared him dead on arrival. An autopsy report said that he had received a heavy beating which could have led to his death.

An unidentified witness who went to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) the other day confirmed that the victim had joined the Sigma Rho fraternity and was about to undergo initiation rites a few days before his death.

According to Leonen, the UP administration is furious over Mendez's death. He admitted that during a meeting between UP president Emerlinda Roman and representatives of different fraternities two weeks ago, she scolded those present. "She told them, 'I am furious over this death. I am furious over your gall to always leave it to us to clean up your mess,'" Leonen said.

"This administration is very, very furious. We are one in this," he added, saying that Roman will issue an administrative order regulating fraternities in the next few days.

Cristina, the mother of Mendez, meanwhile, reiterated her appeal to her son's fraternity "brothers" to help in the investigation into his death.

"She was hoping that Sigma Rho members would not keep mum on the issue and instead help in resolving the case of her son," said lawyer Romulo Asis, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation Anti-Terrorism Division which is in charge of the case. *With Tina G. Santos*

METROBRIEFS

Cops recover MMDA official's stolen van

POLICE recovered the van of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, several hours after it was taken at gunpoint from his driver on Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, on Monday morning. De Dios' vehicle, a black Hyundai Starex (ZGZ 711) was spotted in San Juan, Greenhills, by members of the Philippine National Police Traffic Management Group who were on patrol at 9 p.m. The van, however, bore a different license plate, ZDX 923, and was moving alongside a gray Mitsubishi Adventure (ZFC 690). The Starex later stopped and the driver got off the vehicle and transferred to the Adventure. Some policemen followed the other van while the others stayed with the Starex. On Connecticut Street near Edsa, policemen flagged down the Adventure and saw that it was carrying four men and a woman. Police seized from the four men three cal. .45 pistols, two hand grenades, and six magazines for cal. .45 guns. All five were taken into custody after they failed to show documents for their firearms. The men were identified as Dennis "Daga" Ignacio, Eduardo Bonifacio, Edmond Bonifacio, and Ronald Berber. The police, however, did not give the woman's name as they were still checking her involvement with the group. A check of the Starex's chassis and engine numbers later showed that it was the one stolen from Vergel de Dios' driver at a car wash shop on Visayas Avenue.

Kenneth M. del Rosario

Lim orders strict implementation of ban on 'magic sugar'

MANILA Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday ordered the strict implementation of the ban on "magic sugar," which is being used by ambulant food vendors. Lim said the health of students and other consumers was at risk because of the widespread use of magic sugar or sodium cyclamate, which has been banned by the Bureau of Food and Drugs after it was found to contain carcinogens. Last Friday, three persons were arrested by the Manila City Hall police after 130 kilos of the product, which is being used as a food sweetener, were recovered from a warehouse during an entrapment operation. They were identified as Pedro Prangan, Sheryl Abolo and Niladine Llamas. In a follow-up operation, yesterday, three more kilos of the prohibited item were confiscated from Elizabeth Ramos of Herrera Street, Tondo. All suspects were charged with violating Republic Act 3720 (Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act) and BFAD Advisory 00-05 banning the sale and use of the substance. Lim said the public should be careful when buying food and drinks since the banned sugar is often used in fruit juices, pearl jellies, scramble ice shakes, iced products and dirty ice cream which are being sold in public schools, markets, plazas, parks or on the streets.

Allison W. Lopez

Nerds back Aso as Japan's new premier

ASO REUTERS

TOKYO—FORMER Foreign Minister Taro Aso is the clear underdog in the race to become Japan's next prime minister. But among young Japanese fans of pop culture, Aso is king.

An avowed booster of "manga" comic books and animation known as "animé," Aso has won the support of fans—called "otaku," or nerds—for his promise to promote Japanese pop art overseas.

"Aso is a true nerd. He should be prime minister!" said Asami Suzuki, a 20-year-old college student shopping for comics in Akihabara, a Tokyo neighborhood filled with comic book shops and electronic goods.

"He understands that manga and animé are so important to Japan's image," Suzuki said.

While foreign minister, Aso—a conservative with hawkish foreign policy views—argued that warm feelings for Japanese pop culture can translate into warm feelings for its foreign policy.

Under his leadership, Japanese water tanks deployed as humanitarian aid to Iraq were emblazoned with an image of a cutesy cartoon soccer player. Aso also oversaw the launch of the International Manga Award, an honor he has likened to "a Nobel Prize" for the genre.

He claims he can never wait to get his hands on the latest issue of Shonen Jump, a telephone directory-thick weekly featuring the latest comics, and reportedly stocked comics in his official car.

He opened a campaign speech in Akihabara last year with, "Hello, fellow nerds!"

Markets have taken note.

Manga-related shares jumped in Tokyo last Wednesday, following Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's shock resignation, on speculation that Aso could become the country's next leader.

Shares in Broccoli, a publisher and game store operator, rocketed 71 percent. The company We've, which produces a Japanese version of "Sesame Street," gained 14 percent.

By Tuesday this week, share prices had come down—as had Aso's chances on winning the ruling Liberal Democratic Party presidency in the Sept. 23 ballot. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Musharraf to become civilian

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf plans to quit as Army chief to become a civilian leader, removing a main objection to his proposed reelection in October, a senior ruling party official said on Monday. "We expect that after his reelection process next month, God willing, General Musharraf would take his oath of office as a civilian president before Nov. 15," Sen. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, secretary-general of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), told Reuters. Musharraf retained the post of Army chief after he seized power in a military coup in 1999, despite calls from the opposition to quit the dual office. *Reuters*

World's oldest man at 112

TOKYO—The world's oldest man celebrated his 112th birthday with two bashes at his home in southern Japan on Tuesday, then declared that he wants to live forever. Tomoji Tanabe held his first celebration on receiving 100,000 yen ($870) and flowers from the local mayor, and the second when he was joined later by his children. "I want to live forever. I don't want to die," Tanabe was quoted as saying by Kyodo news agency. Tanabe, recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest living male in June 2006, is "extremely healthy," said an official at his hometown of Miyakonojo on the island of Kyushu. *Reuters*

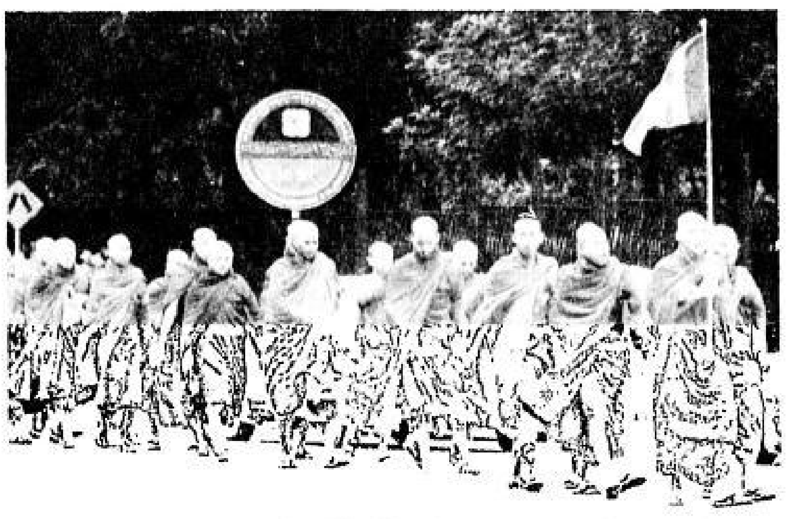
British bank run

LONDON—Anxious customers again queued up to withdraw their cash from embattled British bank Northern Rock on Tuesday despite a government pledge to protect savings and a recovery in its share price. For a fourth day, long lines formed outside branches of the mortgage lender, which last week was granted a bail-out by the Bank of England as it struggled to finance its lending amid a global credit crunch. Finance Minister Alistair Darling announced on Monday that the Bank of England would guarantee all existing deposits in Northern Rock, Britain's fifth-largest mortgage lender. *AFP*

Iraq revokes US firm's license

BAGHDAD—Iraq on Monday ordered the cancellation of US security firm Blackwater's operating license after it was involved in a shootout in Baghdad that killed eight people and wounded 13, a senior official told AFP. Blackwater guards, who provide personal security for US civilian officials working in Iraq, also faced a US investigation into the gun battle as differing accounts began to emerge over the circumstances of the shooting. US and Iraqi sources in Baghdad said the shooting erupted after a bomb exploded near a US diplomatic convoy in Baghdad's Al-Yarmukh neighborhood on Sunday, but a US government incident report said armed insurgents fired on the convoy and Blackwater guards responded. *AFP*

Monks stage protests in Burma



BUDDHIST monks march while chanting prayers and holy scriptures in Rangoon, Burma (Myanmar). The protests were held in at least two cities, including Sittwe, on Tuesday when a reported religious boycott of the ruling military junta members and their associates was due to start. REUTERS

RANGOON—BUDDHIST MONKS STAGED protest marches in at least three cities and towns in Burma (Myanmar) on Tuesday, the day a reported religious boycott of members of the ruling military junta and their associates was due to start.

In Rangoon, the commercial capital, authorities appeared to have thwarted a planned ceremony at the famed Shwedagon Pagoda that would have kicked off the boycott there.

"We could not hold the formal ceremony because the Shwedagon was closed," one monk, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

The more than 400 monks then marched peacefully to the city center, chanting prayers and holy scriptures but no political slogans.

They were trailed by plainclothes police and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), the junta's feared social organization which has broken up protests against soaring fuel prices that began four weeks ago.

They videotaped and photographed the monks, but took no action against them, witnesses said.

Similar marches were reported in Bago, 80 kilometers north of Rangoon, and in the northwestern city of Sittwe where one resident said the monks had been "suppressed" but gave no details.

The Burma-language services of foreign broadcasters have reported that some Buddhist monks would refuse to accept alms from anybody associated with the ruling generals from Tuesday.

They said an alliance of monks had demanded an apology for soldiers firing shots to disperse a demonstration by monks in the town of Pakokku two weeks ago.

A boycott, in which monks refuse to accept alms and offerings from well-wishers, would be taken extremely seriously in the deeply devout country. *Reuters*

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NISSAN | DESIGN

Human error eyed in Thai jet crash

BANGKOK—THAI AUTHORITIES PROBING A plane crash that killed 89 people in Phuket are investigating whether human error was to blame, with officials saying the pilot was warned of dangerous wind conditions.

Air traffic controllers in Phuket told Indonesian pilot Arief Mulyadi, who was among the dead, that there had been reports of a weather phenomenon called wind shear, officials on the island resort said.

"There was a warning of wind shear from the pilot in the previous flight, which landed four minutes ahead," Kumtorn Sirikorn, vice president of the air traffic control body Aeronautical Radio of Thailand, told AFP.

"Air traffic control asked the pilot whether he knew about this wind shear or not, and he said he knew … then the air traffic control official gave him additional information and asked him whether he still wanted to land or not.

"The pilot insisted he wanted to land." Wind shear is a sudden change in wind direction that can throw a plane off course but then disappear just as quickly, leaving pilots struggling to keep the jet under control.

Sunday's flight from Bangkok was approaching Phuket airport in driving rain and wind when it slammed onto the runway before breaking up and skidding into a wooded embankment in flames.

It was carrying 123 passengers and seven crew, of whom a total 41 escaped. The death toll included up to 57 foreigners.

Chaisawasd Kittipornpaiboon, who is leading the transport ministry's crash investigation, said in some cases it took up to three years to determine the cause.

He said they were compiling evidence from the black boxes—which are due to be sent to the US for analysis this week—as well as aircraft instruments and the voice recording between the pilot and the control tower.

"I cannot pinpoint the cause of the accident. At this moment we are still compiling information from various sides," he told AFP.

"Wind shear is counted (as a possible cause) as it put sudden pressure on the aircraft body," he added.

Udom Tantiprasongchai, president of budget carrier One-Two-Go operating the doomed plane, admitted the airline bore some responsibility for the crash.

"It is too soon to jump to conclusions, it is unfair to our staff. Please wait until the investigation is finished. But definitely it is partially our responsibility," he told reporters.

Kajit Habanananda, vice president of One-Two-Go, said the pilot had been warned about the wind, but urged investigators not to assume that human error was to blame for what was Thailand's worst air disaster in a decade.

"It's true that there was a warning of wind shear from the previous flight," Kajit told AFP. "But the wind is constantly changing," he said.

He urged people to wait for the results of the probe. "As of now, I cannot speculate. No one knows the truth." The pilot's son, meanwhile, said senior officials at the airline told him that his father had asked for permission to return to the capital Bangkok but was told to land, according to the Indonesian newspaper Tempo.

"Arief had the time to ask the authorization to go back to Bangkok and abort landing in Phuket airport because of unfriendly weather," but the air traffic control tower said he should land, Agung Bayu Hanggono told the newspaper.

Civil aviation officials have also previously said the pilot of the MD-82 had received permission to abort at the last minute. *AFP*

War talk heightens Iran nuke dispute

PARIS—FRANCE FOLLOWED up a warning that the Iran nuclear crisis could lead to war by calling on Monday for European sanctions against Tehran.

French Prime Minister Francois Fillon said tensions with Iran are now "extreme," heightening a diplomatic storm caused by Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner's warning on Sunday that the world should prepare for a possible conflict over Iran's alleged work on a nuclear weapon.

The comments infuriated Iranian leaders who accused France of stoking tensions. International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei called the war talk "hype."

While French leaders said they would prefer a negotiated settlement, they also launched a proposal to establish European sanctions against Iran, outside of those already implemented by the United Nations.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany are to discuss new UN sanctions on Iran, which has rejected demands to stop enriching uranium.

Kouchner met his Dutch counterpart Maxime Verhagen in Paris and said European countries should prepare their own non-UN sanctions.

"These would be European sanctions that each country, individually, must put in place with its own banking, commercial and industrial system. The English and the Germans are interested in talking about this. We will try to find a common European position," Kouchner said.

Britain, France and Germany have led European efforts, with US backing, to try to persuade Iran to end its nuclear efforts in exchange for a package of economic and diplomatic measures. *AFP*

Security improvements not enough to win war in Iraq, says Pentagon

A US soldier of Charlie company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment takes up position during a patrol in Baghdad. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—THE PENTAGON reported to Congress on Monday that political progress in Iraq remains stalled despite a surge in US forces, and warned that improvements in security were not enough to win the war.

The quarterly report to Congress on stability and security in Iraq said the surge had led to improvements in security, including a drop in sectarian killing and civilian casualties and a downward trend in attacks.

But it said, "Improved security and stability is not enough to win the counterinsurgency. Political progress must also be achieved to reinforce and complement progress in securing the Iraqi population." "There has been little national-level political progress in passing key legislation and implementing government reform," it said.

It said efforts to seek consensus "remain complicated by continued sectarian divisions and violence that exacerbates those divisions." The report said the most promising political developments were at the local level, where the US military is pursuing a so-called "bottom up" approach to reconciliation with Sunni insurgents disenchanted with al-Qaida.

The findings generally tracked with presentations to Congress last week by Gen. David Petraeus, who proposed a gradual drawdown of US surge forces by July 2008 on the strength of the improved security.

The report said Iraq's provinces are now scheduled to be transferred to Iraqi control by July, but it warned of delays due weaknesses in Iraqi police forces.

Currently 169,000 US troops are in Iraq. *AFP*

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US-based Muslim charity accused of funding terrorists

DALLAS—AS THE GOVERNMENT'S SIGNATURE terrorism-financing trial moved toward a close here on Monday, federal prosecutors reaffirmed their charge that the largest Muslim charity in the United States was not simply trying to help poor Palestinians but was an arm of the radical Islamic group Hamas.

The charity, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, and five of its officers have been on trial here since July 16, charged with conspiracy, money laundering and providing financial support to a foreign terrorist organization.

The foundation, based in a Dallas suburb, raised more than $57 million before the government closed it in 2001, according to the prosecution, and sent $12.4 million to Palestinian charities the government contends were controlled by Hamas.

Prosecutors did not contend Monday that the foundation directly financed suicide bombings or weapons purchases. Rather, its financial contributions to charities controlled by Hamas helped that group win the hearts and minds of Palestinians, said Barry Jonas, the Justice Department prosecutor who summarized the government's case for the jury on Monday.

But the defense, which began its summation Monday afternoon, argues that the foundation never gave money to banned groups and took steps to distance itself from politics and to try to make sure it complied with US laws.

In December 2001, President Bush announced that he was freezing the Holy Land Foundation's assets and said Hamas had "obtained much of the money it pays for murder abroad right here in the United States." *NYT*

New US attorney general

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush on Monday nominated as his new attorney general retired judge Michael Mukasey, who would inherit a US Justice Department beset by a series of scandals and low morale.

"It's a pivotal time for our nation and it's vital that the position of attorney general be filled quickly. I urge the Senate to confirm Judge Mukasey promptly," Bush said with Mukasey at his side in the White House Rose Garden.

White House spokesperson Dana Perino said the president hoped the US Senate, controlled by Bush's Democratic foes, would confirm Mukasey to replace the scandal-stained Alberto Gonzales before going into recess on Oct. 8.

The US president, sorely weakened by the unpopular Iraq war, appeared to be skirting a possible showdown with the Democrats after Gonzales, a close Bush confidant, left the post under a cloud.

Gonzales announced his departure in late August, as Democratic and Republican critics alike charged that he lacked independence from the White House, was incompetent, hid the truth and may be guilty of perjury.

A former top aide to Gonzales revealed earlier this year that she improperly used political criteria in hiring decisions, and Democrats have been probing whether a mass purge of federal prosecutors was tied to political, not judicial, considerations.

PRESIDENT Bush (right) with nominee Mukasey.

The nomination could have far-reaching implications for several pitched battles over Bush administration antiterrorism policies, like warrantless spying on US citizens.

Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid said Mukasey had "strong professional credentials a reputation for independence" and suggested the former judge "knows how to say no to the president when he oversteps the Constitution." *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ 'Hall-of-Fame' it with an asterisk or blast it to space? /A29

SPORTS
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JV CASIO, La Salle's hero yesterday, gets two of his 21 points off Ateneo hotshot Chris Tiu. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Archers shoot down Eagles for No. 2 slot

Ateneo forced into playoff vs UST Tigers

By Musong R. Castillo

LA SALLE MADE ALL THE RIGHT PLAYS at the right time yesterday and Ateneo's Zion Laterre a basket that would have been heroic in another time, another game.

The Green Archers highlighted their much ballyhooed return to the UAAP by upending the Eagles, 70-69, for the No. 2 seat in the stepladder semifinals of the men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cholo Villanueva scored on a free throw split with 9.3 seconds left, and it proved to be the marginal point for the Archers, who defeated their blood rival Eagles for the first time in three tries this year—the most important win to boot—to earn a tremendous edge in the race to the Finals.

JV Casio capped a 21-point performance with a layup in the final 1:54 that gave La Salle a 69-65 lead, and the Archers failed to score until that Villanueva charity.

But La Salle pulled out the win just the same as Laterre, mainly a stopper, got a surprise pass at the free throw line from Jai Reyes in the potential game-tying play by Ateneo.

Instead of popping out a pass to anyone or stepping back beyond the arc for a bucket that would tie the count, Laterre took—and made—a meaningless teardrop shot that left a tenth of a second on the clock and the Eagles with no chance to get the ball back.

GAME SUNDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST

"I was really confident coming into this game," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren, surprisingly cool and emotionless despite coming off a thriller of a ballgame. "The manner in which we lost our last two games showed the character of this team.

'Most relaxed atmosphere'

"To tell you frankly, I have coached in more than 120 games but this was the most relaxed atmosphere I have experienced," he added. "Maybe it (No. 2 slot) was destiny on our part. A window was opened and we grabbed the opportunity."

Ateneo, which bungled its golden chance of nailing the No. 2 slot outright by losing to also-ran National U on Saturday, thus dropped into a KO game with defending champion Santo Tomas, scheduled for Sunday, with the winner advancing opposite the Archers and needing to beat them twice to make the title series.

The Growling Tigers extended their reign with a masterful 80-69 conquest of Far Eastern.

Ateneo had control for most of the game, though no team led comfortably all throughout. La Salle, however, displayed more poise, composure and heart when winning time came as its go-to guys, Casio and TY Tang in particular, rose to the challenge when called.

Archer Ilad banned

Meanwhile, the UAAP board last night came down hard on La Salle forward Brian Ilad, who was slapped a five-game suspension on top of the automatic one-game ban for being ejected after punching UE forward Mark Fampulme on Thursday.

That would mean the end of the UAAP career of the 6-foot-5 Ilad, who is in his first year with the Green Archers but actually had consumed four years of eligibility in another league with the Philippine College of Criminology. Ilad served his automatic one-game ban yesterday.

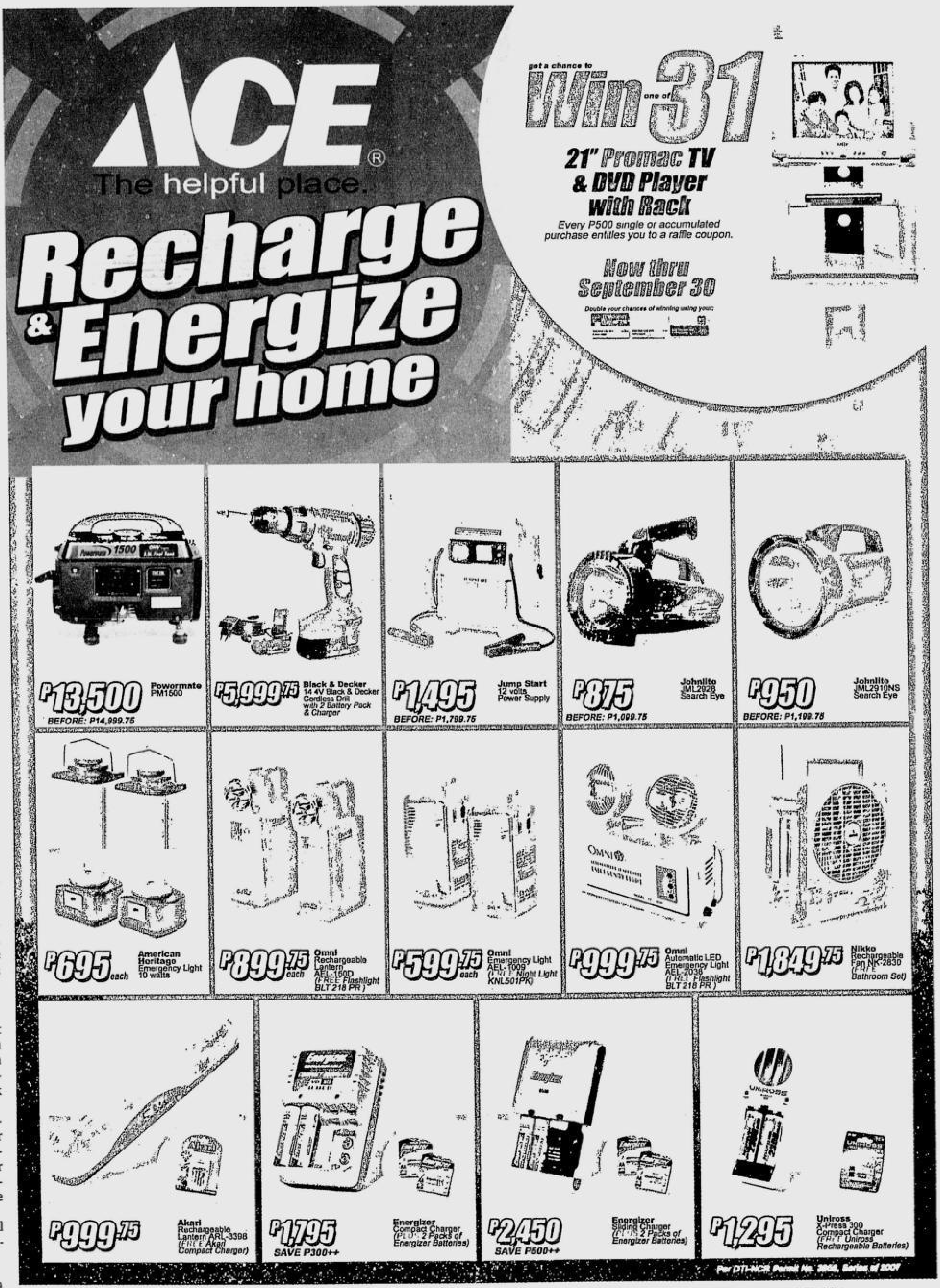
The board also urged supporters of all member schools to behave "with proper decorum and civility in cheering for their teams."

The scores:

LA SALLE 70—Casio 21, Maierhofer 13, Tang 10, Barua 9, Villanueva 7, Walsham 6, Ferdinand 2, Mangahas 2, Malabes 0, Atkins 0, Cua 0, Co 0.

ATENEO 69—Long 11, Tiu 10, Salamat 10, Laterre 9, Arao 8, Al-Hussaini 7, Baclao 4, Escueta 4, Nkemakolam 2, Reyes 2, Barracoso 2, Monfort 0.

Quarters: 12-13, 28-32, 50-47, 70-69



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N'woods, Eastridge forge Fed golf title duel

ROYAL NORTHWOODS OF BULACAN and Eastridge of Rizal pulled off scrambling wins over their favored foes over the weekend to seal a championship duel in the 2007 Federation Golf League.

Northwoods reached the finals for the second time in four years, coming from behind to turn back second seed Alabang, 6-4, in their semifinal series.

The 2004 champion Northwoods shoots for a second title against Eastridge, which stunned two-time champion and top seed Forest Hills in the other Final Four duel.

Eastridge forged a 2.5-2.5 draw at Forest Hills then hacked out a 4-1 triumph at home to barge into the finals for the first time.

Northwoods and Eastridge clash this weekend in another home-and-away showdown with the Bulacan squad picked as the odds-on favorite.

At Eastridge, King Sumulong and Mike Kim delivered the first point for the home team with a 6-and-5 victory in high-low, then Owen Lee and Ellery Temena earned the second of three points Eastridge needed to win the match with a 4-and-3 win in best-ball.

Rading Decipeda and Nick Kim delivered the clinching point by finishing off their greensome opponents for a 2-and-1 win to secure Eastridge's finals stint and end Forest Hills' bid to become the first team to win three titles.

"Northwoods will be tough to beat but I think our victory over Forest Hills prepared us for the title series," said Eastridge team captain Erwin Temena.

Alabang built a 3-2 lead at home on wins by Arnel Paras-Francis Jimenez (greensome), Monto Briones-OV Espiritu (scramble) and Vic Guzman-Juan Ibazeta (aggregate).

But three successive blowout victories set into motion the Northwoods rally with Sixto Sengson-Von Sarmiento posting a 6-and-4 win in best-ball, followed by similar 4-and-3 decisions forged by Arnle Arteche-Danny Dalija and Rodel Mangulabnan-Choi Min Sik in the greensome and aggregate formats.

Lions, Knights start battle for NCAA crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HISTORY UNDERPINS THE RENEWAL of the rivalry between San Beda and Letran when they start their NCAA men's basketball best-of-three championship series today at the Araneta Coliseum.

It's the first time in 57 years that the two squads will actually meet in the finals.

The last time they met, Letran's squad was famously referred to as Murder Inc. for the way it crushed rivals, Lauro Mumar was the First Knight and Caloy Loyzaga was the alpha male of the Red Lions pride.

As intriguing as the match-up is, San Beda coach Frankie Lim nonchalantly brushes off the idea that this is an important chapter in both schools' history.

"This is the finals and you can throw everything, the records, history, and statistics out the window," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim.

And rightly so. Things have changed since both schools marched straight to the final dance. For starters, the defending champion Red Lions have mowed down the field on the way to a 13-1 record.

Letran? It has slogged its way through the eliminations. But it did score one big highlight triumph in that phase, inflicting San Beda's lone defeat, 70-69, in the first round.

Lim, a member of the 1977-78 San Beda champion team, is hoping to hand his alma mater back-to-back titles right in his first try as collegiate coach. Koy Banal coached the Red Lions to the title last year.

"Playing in the finals is totally different," Lim said. "This is all about heart and the will to win."

Ironically, it's the rookie-laden Knights which have so far showed bigger heart throughout the season.

Letran tends to thrive when the game goes down the wire. The Lions have to prove their ability to play the crunch, but it is a dilemma that Lim will gladly accept—the Lions have won by an average of 16 points so far.

As far as Letran coach Louie Alas is concerned, whichever teams takes Game 1 is likely to wrap up the title.

"In a short series like this, Game 1 is very important," said Alas, who masterminded the Knights' 2003 and 2005 championship run. "It's going to be tough because we're up against a very strong opponent."

SANBEDA
15
QUINDAY
16

SAN BEDA's Ogie Menor draws a foul from Letran's Andro Quinday in the two squads' first-round meeting won by the Knights. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PAUL del Rosario shows the power of his Kawasaki Ultra 250X machine in ruling the Expert 1200 race.

Del Rosario wins 4th rider plum

PAUL DEL ROSARIO COMPLETED A season sweep in the premiere Expert 1200 Open Unlimited at the recent 2007 Petron-JSAP National Jet Ski Series championship leg off the Waterfront at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to capture his fourth Rider of the Year award

Sammy Boy Parilla likewise pulled off a sweep in the Novice 4-Strokes class to clinch the Novice Rider of the Year crown.

Del Rosario also took the Rider of the Year award with back-to-back wins in 1999-2000 and shared the championship with BJ Ang last year.

He bested Mike Mangio and Ang using a stock Kawasaki Ultra 250X, the same hull he will be using in the 2007 World Jet Ski Finals set Oct. 6-14 in Lake Havasu, Arizona.

Del Rosario also emerged champion in the Stand-up class over Peter Cruz, Yanik Elnar and Mike Mangio.

Parilla turned back Jam Mangio and Robbie David of Team Zuave in the final Novice races.

Parilla was three points behind David before the final leg but quickly grabbed pole position at the start of the finals. David struggled to shake off Mangio all throughout the race.

Mangio clinched the Female Rider of the Year title over Abby Reyes.

Other winners were Yanik Elnar, who took the Open Sport crown over Alex Isip and Paul Buendia; Bobby del Rosario, Executive class winner over Joey Millionado and David; and Team Zuave's Butch Casido, who clinched the Novice 2-Strokes crown over Alex Isip and Dax Figueroa.

Dong Arcilla, president of the organizing Jet Sports Association of the Philippines, was elated over the success of the 2007 season under the stewardship of race director Millionado and chief marshal Jeremy Chua.

World darts tilt RP qualifier unfurls Friday

THE COUNTRY'S TOP DARTERS SEE ACTION starting Friday in the P100,000 Chris Sports Philippine Qualifier for the World Darts Championship at the Festival Mall in Alabang.

The three-day tournament, organized by the National Dart Foundation of the Philippines in cooperation with Solar Sports, will select the country's representative to the $1.1-million world championship slated Dec. 17 to Jan. 1, 2008 in Alexandra Palace, Britain.

The national qualifier, sponsored by Robson Spectra, Line Pro, Tanduay, and Questor, and supported by INQUIRER Publications, Negros Navigation and Gameworx, kicks off with an open tournament at 5 p.m. on Friday with the 16 qualifiers joining the top 16 NDFP-ranked players and four wild cards from affiliated dart federations.

The round-robin elimination of the qualifier starts at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday.

The qualifier also includes a P15,000 Classified Draw Doubles on Saturday starting at 6 p.m. and the P20,000 Classified Draw Triples on Sunday at 3 p.m.

The Philippines is one of the world championships' four qualifiers along with India, Russia, and a country in Eastern Europe, according to NDFP president Tito Soncuya.

SPORTSWATCH

Top Cuban boxing coach Nat'l Open guest of honor

OLYMPIC AND WORLD CHAMPION MAKER Dr. Alcides Sagarra Caron has been invited as guest of honor in the 2007 Smart National Open boxing championships slated Sept. 30 to Oct. 6 in Cagayan de Oro.

Caron, the man behind the success of Cuba's former Olympic champions such as Felix Savon, Teofilo Stevenson, Felix Balado and Joel Casamayor, is to conduct seminars and clinics during the weeklong meet featuring 250 boxers from 35 teams.

"Cuba is the No. 1 boxing country in the world, that's why we are inviting Dr. Carron as our guest of honor in the Open so he could impart his boxing knowledge to us," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines head Manny Lopez, who appeared in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Shakey's UN Avenue branch together with Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno.

"We are confident that the National Open will be a resounding success," Gov. Moreno said in the same forum sponsored by Shakey's and Pagcor.

Cagayan de Oro is home to Doha Asian Games gold medalist Violito Payla, 2005 Southeast Asian Games gold medal winner Genebert Basadre and Roberto Jalnaiz, who saw action in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and won for the country a gold medal in the 1990 Beijing Asian Games.

Razon bags taekwondo gold

BERNARD RAZON, GOLD MEDALIST IN the World Taekwondo Culture Expo in South Korea in June, topped category 4-B of the 2007 Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at Glorietta Activity Center in Makati on Sunday.

The 12-year-old student of St. Louis College of Valenzuela beat Eugene Torres of Powerhouse Batangas, 12-7, to nail Team Meycauayan's lone gold in the meet.

The squad of coach Moben Angeles also won one silver and five bronze medals.

Paul Dizon bagged the junior middleweight gold while settling for bronze medals were Razon's sister Jhoanna (girls category 2); Jel Ramos (boys category 3); Jaimer Exconde (boys category 5); Evelyn Ferrer (girls category 6); and Geneve Castillo (junior feather).

SM Cup bowling stakes P5M

ABOUT P5 MILLION IN TOTAL CASH prizes, including P500,000 for a perfect game, is at stake in the ongoing 7th SM Bowling Cup which ends on May 2008. Aside from cash prizes, national champions will win a Nissan Sentra or X-Trail. Interested players may visit an SM Bowling Center at the following branches: Mall of Asia, Megamall, Fairview and Cebu.

LGBA stagfest at SJC today

ALL ROADS LEAD TO SAN JUAN COLISEUM today as the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association 7-Stag Derby series gets under way at 11 a.m. with 120 fights.

Today's elimination round is part of the ongoing search for the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year 2007, according to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

Five participants posted three wins each in the Sept. 14 eliminations at Lucky Sports Complex. They are Nelson Uy, Ronald Puno, Alex Tang, Arman Santos and Paulo Hizon.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Speed Madonna (6), Elevenian Queen (3), Think Tank (4), Getting Better (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Please Don't Stop (1), Distinctive Dancer (4), Deity (3), Ideal Gaze (3)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Nothing Impossible (3), Hand-Picked (5), Hazit Coming (4), Money For Rap (6)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Sword O'War (3), Easy Lover (2), Pele (5), Save Our Queen (4)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (9), Five O'Clock (3), Friendly Venture/Tower of Class (4), BMI Baby (5), War Bird (8)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Sa Wakas (5), Prince Geoffe (3), Miracle Music (6), Lady Beware (2)
Race 7—(Dato's Pride) (6), Regal Times (11), Camberwell Beauty/Jade Express (4), Cool Cielo (7), Yao Man (2)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Cheska Run (11), Gun Powder (2), Words of Joy (1), Masiado (3), Stingray (5), Speed Bullet (12)

Barrera, Sulaiman: A chance at relevance

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—GOING BY ESTABlished pre-fight facts—if not by the tale of the tape—make believe, like love, will have to reign in order for Marco Antonio Barrera to corner enough bets in the Will to Win card in Las Vegas on Oct. 6.

Of course, there will be fanatical Mexicans who will put tequila money on the Baby-faced Assassin, but they are expected to do so only with caution and reluctance.

In fact, not a few Manny Pacquiao fanatics have been taunting Barrera on the website for deluding himself that he could still avenge his 2003 knockout loss to the raging Filipino boxing superhero.

* * *

These Pacman fans love to say Barrera has only two chances: Slim and none!

We all have heard that dig before.

Not truly original, although it tinkles with some relevance this time.

But, mind you, Barrera, 33, has greater chances than what Pacquiao diehards wanted to believe.

* * *

So you really wanted to know who's the sure loser this early?

The World Boxing Council (WBC), who else? All for the simple fact that no official belt will be at stake in Pacquiao-Barrera II.

That goes without saying that the WBC will be deprived of the enormous sanctioning fee.

Barrera earlier lost his WBC super featherweight belt to Juan Manuel Marquez; Pacquiao has his version of the WBC International title.

But it's clear that dumping the International belt, as the eminent Larry Merchant had always insisted, would not deprive the monumental rematch of excitement and glitter.

* * *

Anyway, based on his golden worth, Pacquiao definitely deserves a bigger take, bigger than the $2-million purse being bruited about.

However, it's also easy to believe claims that Oscar De La Hoya and Bob Arum, back in each other's arms, have conspired to shortchange Pacquiao.

These claimaints have been saying that Pacquiao, after all, has already gotten a whopping cash advance—$500,000 from Golden Boy and $1 million from Top Rank—when the Pacman went bang, bang and signed left and right fight contracts with both De La Hoya and Arum—in that order.

* * *

This issue had even led to unfounded claims that Pacquiao was thinking of pulling out.

Well, the official word is that Pacquiao et al. are scheduled to plane back to Los Angeles on Saturday, first day of Fall here, for the final push in preparations for the Oct. 6 blockbuster in Las Vegas.

Everything is certain that Pacquiao is honoring his commitment like a true gentleman.

However, maybe this need not be asked, but will Don Jose Sulaiman, the WBC big boss, still bother to be at ringside now that not even an old WBC necktie will be at stake in the rematch?

* * *

You see, Don Jose had expressed concern after Pacquiao went down with the flu early in his Cebu training.

Sulaiman, once labeled as the pontiff of pugilism, in wishing Pacquiao well, insisted great champions should always be properly protected for their reign to last and prosper.

That said, it's easy to believe Sulaiman would fly to Manila next month for the 45th WBC Convention at the historic Manila Hotel.

He was there last in 1996 when Luisito Espinosa successfully defended his WBC featherweight crown at the Luneta against Cesar Soto.

* * *

Don Jose may also fulfill his wish to be reunited with Erbito Salavarria, whom he calls one of the finest flyweights ever to win a world crown.

But, more than this, the WBC president could make his return to Manila truly significant if he makes a call and declaration on the setting up of boxing schools for a people that basks in the greatness of its boxing heroes.

Sorry, space has again run out, so the details of that Sulaiman winning formula will be revealed in a succeeding column.

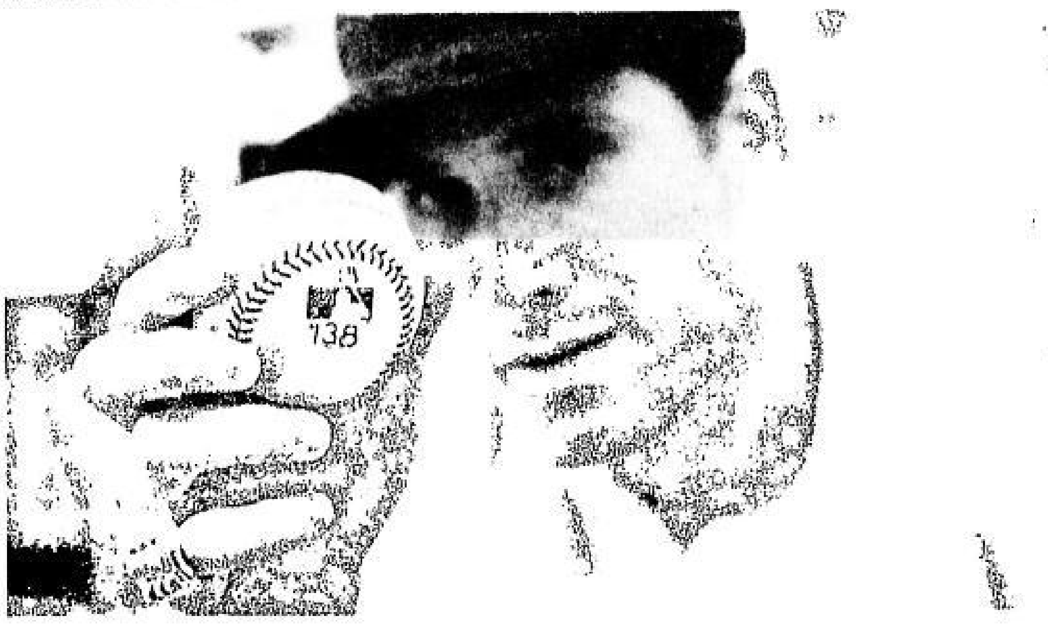
Yankees turn back Orioles

NEW YORK—HIDEKI MATSUI broke out of a slump with a go-ahead homer, and Phil Hughes won his second straight start with help from a bullpen that escaped two bases-loaded jams as New York downed Baltimore, 8-5, Monday.

Alex Rodriguez tied his career high of 142 RBIs, Doug Mientkiewicz hit a two-run single, Robinson Cano had an RBI double, Jorge Posada got three hits and Bobby Abreu drove in two runs as New York waited out an inconsistent Daniel Cabrera (9-17).

Derek Jeter singled and doubled, passing Bernie Williams for fourth place on the club's career list with 2,337 hits. The Yankees improved to a season-best 22 games over .500.

In Toronto, Frank Thomas hit three home runs to lift the Toronto Blue Jays over the Boston Red Sox, 6-1, raising his total to 512 and tying Ernie Banks and Eddie Mathews for 18th on the career list. *AP*



POPULAR fashion designer Marc Ecko, known for making a dent on the hip-hop market, shows off the ball that will soon—depending on your vote—either be inducted into the Hall of Fame, possibly with an asterisk, or sent into orbit among the stars in space. AP

BONDS BALL

'Hall-of-Fame' it with an asterisk or blast it to space? It's your vote

LOS ANGELES—MARC ECKO, who bought Barry Bonds' record-breaking homerun ball for $752,467 dollars, has invited the public to decide the artifact's fate.

Ecko, a fashion designer known for publicity stunts, launched a website asking people to vote for one of three choices—giving the ball to the Baseball Hall of Fame, branding the ball with an asterisk to denote the steroid suspicions that surround Bonds and then giving it to the Hall, or blasting it into space.

Ecko, who bought the ball in an on-line auction that closed on Saturday, says he will abide by the outcome of the voting, which will end on Sept. 25.

"We all have opinions about this ball," Ecko said in an opening statement posted on the website, www.vote756.com. "Some feel it is a piece of history that belongs in the Hall of Fame. Others believe it is the embodiment of cheating culture. I bought this baseball to democratize the debate over what to do with it and allow the public to decide."

Bonds' pursuit of Hank Aaron's all-time record of 755 career home runs, which had stood for more than 30 years, had polarized baseball fans thanks to the unproven doping allegations that have dogged the Giants slugger.

Matt Murphy, who caught the Bonds' ball on Aug. 7, says he'll vote to send the object to Cooperstown without an asterisk.

"Until he (Bonds) is proven guilty, this ball is both prestigious and history," Murphy, 21, told the San Francisco Chronicle in a telephone interview from his home in New York. *AFP*

Upbeat RP stars kick off Asian chess campaign

By Roy Luarca

MANDAUE CITY—FORGET ABOUT THE ratings; the Filipino players are determined to topple their touted foreign rivals when the 6th Asian Individual Chess Championships begin at the Cebu International Convention Center here.

Though no local woodpusher is ranked among the top 10, Grandmaster Eugene Torre believes the Filipinos have good chances of barging into the elite group that will advance to this year's World Chess Cup slated Nov. 22-Dec.18 in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

"This tournament is tough," said Torre. "But we'll do our best to perform beyond our seeding and represent the country in the World Cup."

Grandmaster Rogelio "Joey" Antonio, fresh off a victory in the Michigan Open early this month, concurred with Torre, adding that they have prepared hard for this $40,000 tournament.

The Philippine challenge got an unexpected boost when GM Mark Paragua cut short his campaign in the United States and arrived in Manila Monday night to join the 11-round championships being hosted by the country for the first time.

Attention will be focused on teen sensation Wesley So, who wound up board 1 gold medalist in last month's World Under 16 Olympiad held in Singapore.

The 13-year-old So, also the reigning Philippine Open champion, is eyeing his second GM result with fellow International Master and Turin Chess Olympian Oliver Dimakiling.

Spearheading the foreign invasion are Super GMs Nia Hua (Elo 2681), Zhang Pengxiang (Elo 2649) and Wang Hao (Elo 2624) of China and Super GM Ehsan Ghame Maghami (Elo 2610) of Iran.

Indian GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly (Elo 2586) is ranked fifth,

TORRE PDI PHOTO

Followed by Indonesian GM Utut Adianto (Elo 2583), Chinese GM Xu Jun (Elo 2574), Chinese GM Zhou Jiangchao (Elo 2572), Indian GM Chanda Sandipan (Elo 2563) and Chinese GM Zhao Jun (Elo 2558).

Torre, the only Filipino to reach the quarterfinals of the World Championships, totes an Elo of 2536, towing along Antonio (Elo 2532) and Paragua, who has slipped to 2530 after breaking the 2600-barrier last year.

Also expected to contend are So (Elo 2516), Dimakiling (Elo 2500), IM Julio Catalino Sadorra (Elo 2421), IM Ronald Bancod, Hamed Nouri, and Barlo Nadera.

The Chinese and Indian contingents are expected to arrive in Manila Tuesday night in time for Wednesday's 2 p.m. opening ceremonies.

Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia and National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Butch" Pichay will do the ceremonial moves.

Also expected to attend are (World Chess Federation) Fide honorary lifetime president Florencio Campomanes, Fide general secretary Ignatius Leong, former NCFP president Go Teng Kok, NCFP secretary general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino and sports patron Boojie Lim.

Unable to come due to pressing commitments, Fide president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov will be gracing the closing ceremonies instead on Sept. 29. The tournament is nacked by the Department of Tourism, Pagcor Sports and Crown Regency Mandaue.

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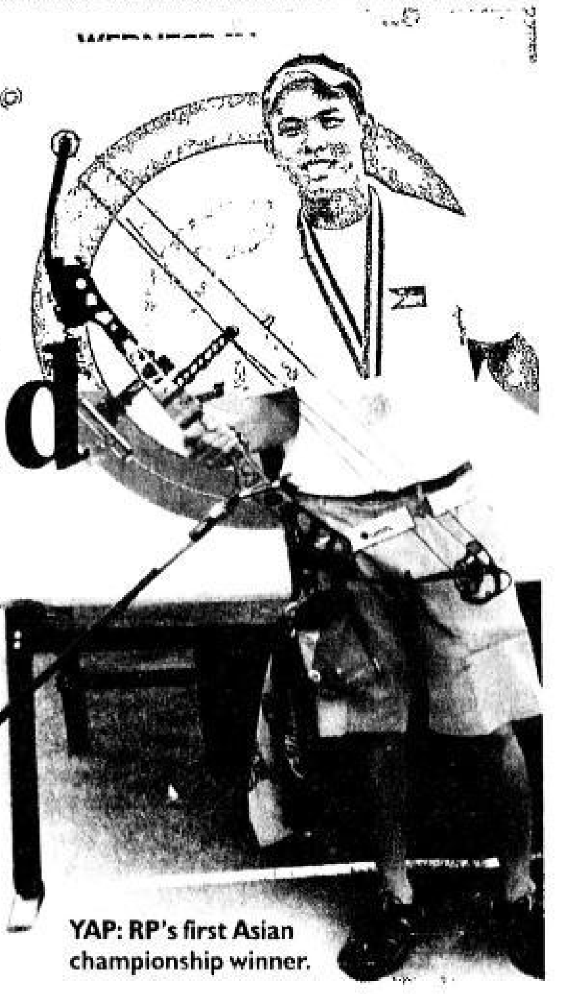
Yap nails Asian gold



YAP: RP's first Asian championship winner.

FILIPINO ARCHER EARL BENJAMIN YAP BEAT A world-ranked South Korean in a nerve-wracking shootout to win the men's compound gold in the 15th Asian Archery Championships in Xian, China recently.

Yap, the continent's No. 1 compound archer, nipped world No. 6 Kim Dong-kyu, 116-114, to become the first Filipino to bag an Asian championship gold.

A total of 39 archers from 12 countries vied for honors in the competition held Sept. 14 to 20 in the ancient Chinese city .

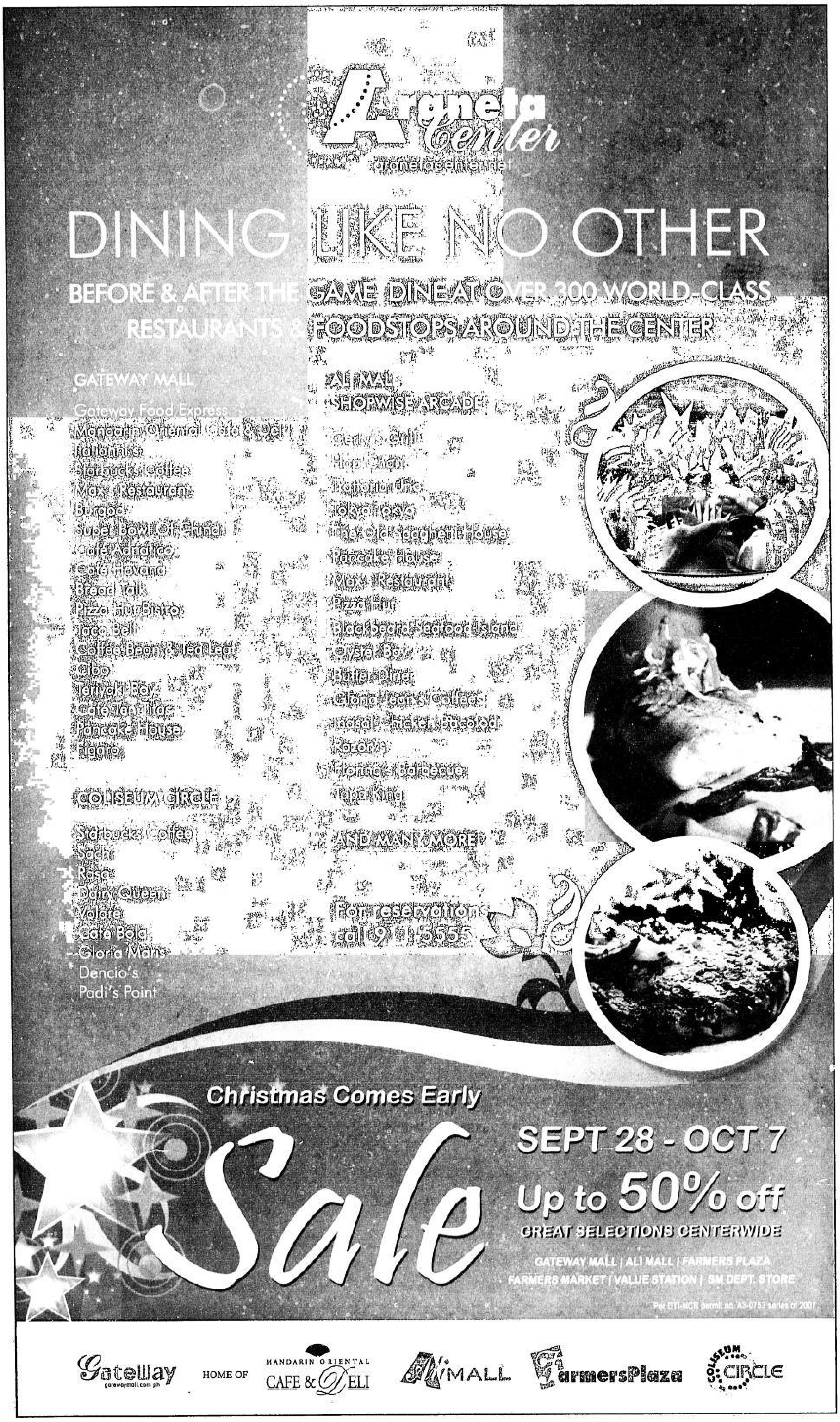
On the way to the finals, Yap overwhelmed a Hong Kong archer, 114-98, and Iran's Parvis Maibdi, 107-104, in the preliminaries; Majid Ahmadi, also of Iran, 111-109, in the quarterfinals; and still another Iranian, world No. 10 Resa Zamaninejad, 113-112, in the semifinals.

Yap battled Kim to a 29-29 tie after the first end of the finals.

The Filipino moved ahead by 3 points after the Korean bungled a shot in the second end, but saw his lead cut to 2 at the end of the third end.

Yap sewed up the gold by matching Kim's perfect fourth and final end with 3Xs.

Marc Anthony Reyes



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CdO runner rules city's triathlon leg

LOCAL RUNNER NEIL CATIIL TOPPED the Cagayan de Oro leg of the 2007 Speedo national Age Triathlon series with a time of one hour, 35 minutes and 10 seconds over a record field of 97 participants.

Coming out 10th from the swim event, the 21-year-old Catiil grabbed the lead in the bike portion and held on with lots to spare in the run phase of the 1-km swim, 30-km bike and 7.5-km run event held at the Chali Beach Resort.

He bested contestants from his province, Bukidnon, Cebu, Pampanga, Davao and nearby towns of Agusan in the race organized by the CdO Triathlon group of Al Manaloto and Manolet Barrera.

Adolfo Minoza finished second in 1:38.28 and Roy Janubas third (1:42.30).

The NAGT series moves to Los Baños, Laguna on Sept. 29 and to Ayala Alabang Village on Oct. 14 for the final leg.

Other winners: Davao's Peter Villocino (19 and below), Cebu's Sarabosing Dax Corp (25-29 years old), Rex Anthony Villaflor (30-34), Roy Janubas (35-39), Minoza (40-44), Anastacio Bunal (45-49), Ralf Veers (50-54), Jose Santos (55-59), Leslie Herrero (female 19 and below), Marie Grace Bascon (female 20-24), Lulani Grace Deleste (female 30 and above) and Temario/Sanchez (team relay).

Lions keep UCAA semis hopes alive

GAMES TODAY (*Olivarez Sports Complex*)
10 a.m. PSBA vs Las Piñas College
11:30 a.m. Olivarez College vs EAC
1 p.m. ACSAT vs St. Francis
2:30 p.m. UCN vs La Salle-Dasma

LAS PIÑAS COLLEGE BEAT ST. FRANcis of Assisi College, 62-55, to stay in contention for a Final Four seat in the 6th Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament at the Olivarez College Sports Complex.

Triples from RJ Terez and Jonas Kintanar with 7:50 to go in the third canto keyed the Blue Lions' assault as they grabbed a 33-29 advantage en route to their fourth straight victory

LPC now shares fourth spot (6-4) with Philippine School of Business Administration, which pummeled La Salle-Dasmariñas, 81-68.

Asian College of Science and Technology turned back Olivarez College, 81-76, to join St. Francis on top at 8-2.

Ateneo vs DLSZ in UAAP jr finals

THE DE LA SALLE ZOBEL JUNIOR ARCHERS knocked off the Far Eastern University Baby Tamaraws, 67-61, to arrange a title clash with defending champion Ateneo Blue Eaglets in the UAAP junior basketball division.

DLSZ was the 2005 champion—its first after 50 years—but was unable to defend its crown last year because of La Salle's suspension.

Coach Boris Aldeguer said the finals will be an exciting one because as will be the first time they will tangle with arch rival Ateneo in the finals.

The best-of-three series will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Junior Archers roster: Jaffy Andaya, Gabby Albano, Collin Buckley, Gwayne Capacio, Joshua Cruz, Nico Elorde, Jeric Fortuna, Archi Go, Aiki Herrera, Jed Manguerra, Masshi Okubo, Mike Pardo, Martin Rodriguez, Joshua Webb and Rey Yap.

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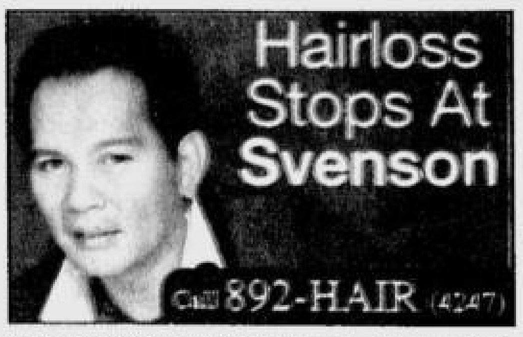
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World oil prices hit $81/barrel

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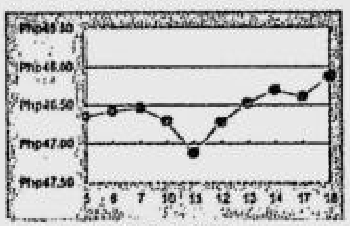

SEPTEMBER

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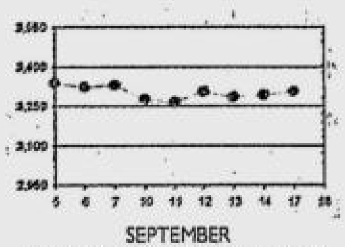
P46.13 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 18, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SEPTEMBER
(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares drop 0.5%

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.5 percent lower as investors took profits, staying cautious just ahead of the United States Federal Reserve's decision on interest rates, dealers said.

The spike in crude oil prices to a record peak above $81 a barrel also renewed concerns about energy costs, they added.

The Philippine composite index closed down 17.68 points at 3,289.75. The all-share index fell 12.63 points to 2,074.94.

There were 87 decliners and 26 gainers, while 42 stocks were flat.

Volume totaled 3.6 billion shares worth P3.7 billion ($79.7 million).

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. ended up P5 at P2,710, off the day's high of P2,730. Shares in Ayala Corp. ended flat at P492.50.

Investors also locked in gains in Metropolitan Bank Trust Co., which fell 50 centavos to P50.50. San Miguel Corp.'s A shares retreated P1 to P59.50, while its B shares fell P1 to P60. *AFP*

Opec move to boost output seen to be too little, too late

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES TOPPED $81 A BARREL FOR the first time on Tuesday, setting another record high amid fears of critically tight supplies for the winter season in the United States.

Opec's announcement last week that it would pump an extra 500,000 barrels per day from November has failed to stop the surge in price, with some analysts predicting it could keep soaring to $85 and beyond.

New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for October delivery, jumped 55 cents to $81.12 in Singapore trade at 0335 GMT.

The jump followed a run overnight in New York, when the contract spiked $1.47 to $80.57 per barrel after an earlier intra-day high of 80.70.

"The door to 80 has been opened," said Victor Shum, senior principal at Purvin and Gertz Inc. energy consultants in Singapore.

He said the mood had changed Monday as speculators drove up the price over concerns about tight supply in the winter months.

"In the near-term, the market has limited downside supply risks," he said.

Brent North Sea crude for November delivery was 30 cents higher at $77.28 a barrel.

Abdalla Salem El-Badri, chief of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), said Friday that $80 a barrel for oil did not reflect the current supply and demand situation.

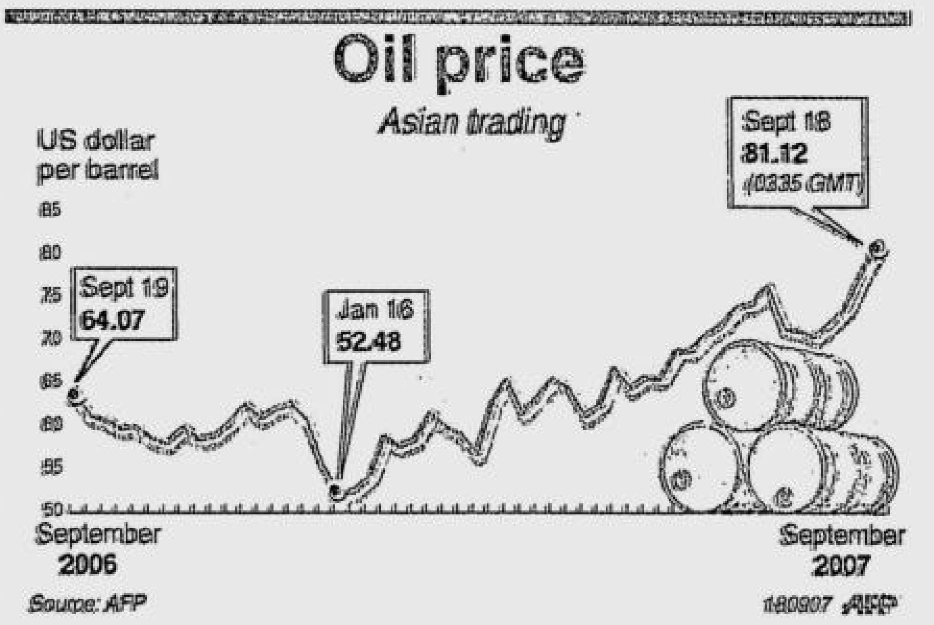
But Goldman Sachs analysts said the Opec decision to boost output came too late to keep prices down.

"We believe that this will be too little, too late, barring an outright collapse in demand, and now expect inventories to draw to critical levels this winter," they wrote in an analyst note.

They said they were raising their yearend 2007 price forecast to $85 per barrel, "with a high risk of a spike above $90 per barrel," and said crude could hit $95 by the end of next year.

Oil price

Asian trading



Source: AFP

Shum said there were "widespread worries" over the Goldman Sachs report.

"The mood got a lot more bullish," he said.

London-based analysts, the Centre for Global Energy Studies, said Monday that the world "will remain short of oil, and prices will continue to rise" unless Opec put enough crude onto the market at prices to attract buyers.

Investors are worried that crude supplies are inadequate to meet demand as winter approaches in the United States, the world's biggest energy consumer, and other countries in the Northern Hemisphere.

Concerns spiked after the US Department of Energy reported last Wednesday that US crude inventories fell by a sharper-than-expected 7.1 million barrels during the previous week.

The drop was almost three times steeper than market expectations and came as the closure of several US refineries in the path of Hurricane Humberto also pressured prices. *AFP*

RP exports now less vulnerable to currency swings

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE IMPACT OF CURRENCY swings on the export performance of emerging economies in East Asia, particularly the Philippines, is on the wane, according to the Asian Development Bank.

In its new study, ADB suggested that any movement in the exchange rate would not affect exports from East Asia as much as it used to, adding that the emerging economies have become less vulnerable to risks.

The ball game now, according to ADB, has shifted to production capacity.

The report on export dynamics in East Asia, which appeared in the ADB publication Asian Development Outlook, noted that the extent of real exchange rate links varied across the nine economies of East Asia—China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines.

"In general, the real exchange rate has the least impact on the Philippines' exports while the impact is greatest in Indonesia," the study said. "This is consistent with the fact that [Philippine] exports and imports have been dominated by parts and components over the past decade. The Philippines' exports are heavily concentrated in electrical ma-

RP EXPORTS/ B3

IN THIS ISSUE

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▨ BSP incurs P50B in forex losses /B4
▨ 2 more tobacco firms buck tax order /B8

Improved tax collection leads gov't to post budget surplus

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT posted a budget surplus of P13.9 billion in August due to improved tax collection by major revenue agencies.

The Department of Finance yesterday reported that the surplus for the month was a result of the P117.1 billion in revenue collected and P103.2 billion in expenditures.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the surplus for August suggested that the government could keep its full-year fiscal target of limiting the budget deficit to only P63 billion, better than the P63.8 billion posted last year.

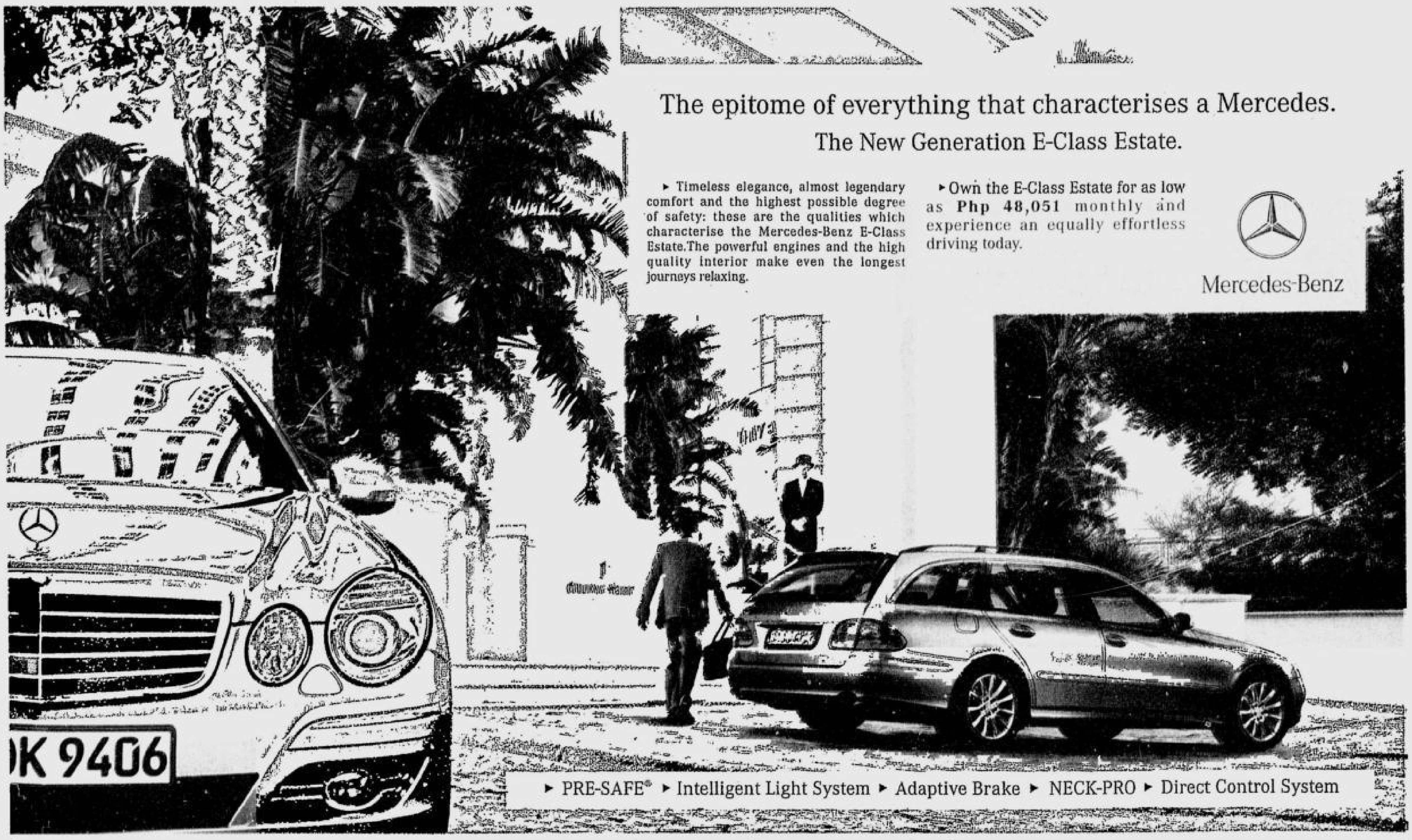
But the surplus in August was short of the target of P15.4 billion set by the Development Budget Coordination Committee—the agency tasked to program the government's economic and fiscal goals.

But according to Teves, what matters is the attainment of the official quarterly and full-year goals, not the monthly targets. He said that, so far, the government was confident of attaining the goals of limiting the third quarter deficit to P22.692 billion and the full-year deficit to P63 billion.

The surplus for August brought the government's cumulative budget position to a deficit of P25.5 billion in the first eight months of the year—an improvement from the P39.4 billion incurred as of the first seven months.

"We are happy to see that our efforts to intensify revenue collection are gradually producing results," Teves said in a press conference yesterday. "With the continued implementation of the action plans of the BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) and the BOC (Bureau of Customs),

IMPROVED/ B3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Legacy Ventures pours ₱1B into maiden property project

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LEGACY VENTURES Realty and Development Inc. is investing nearly P1 billion in its maiden condominium-townhouse project near the Manila Bay.

Dubbed the Sentosia, the project features 127 exclusive clusters of duplex and quadruplex housing units, bearing a modern Singaporean design.

Sentosia is five minutes away from the SM Mall of Asia and 15 minutes away from the domestic and international airport.

Legacy president Carlos Wilfredo Pineda yesterday said the units would be sold for about P52,000 per square meter or at least P8 million for a 161-square-meter unit.

The property is seen appreciating by about 10 percent in a year's time from turnover, Pineda said.

Legacy is offering a guarantee that if the property fails to appreciate after one year, it will buy back the unit from the customer at the original price.

Pineda also said the company will offer discounts especially for cash payments and in-house financing.

A total of 24 units—that will constitute the first phase of the project—will be turned over to the buyer by the end of November. Another 32 units will be turned over to the buyers in December. All units will be completed by December 2008.

Pineda added that construction cost alone would amount to about P350 million.

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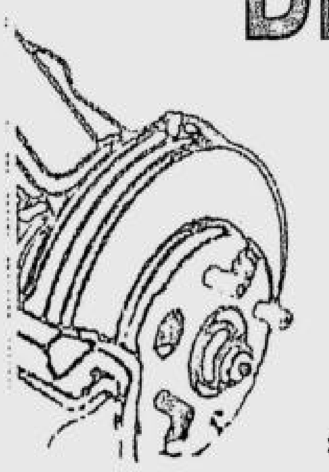

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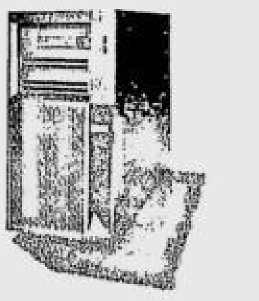

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 18, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	38	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	55.5	55.5	55	55.5	1,064,200
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	64.5	67	64	64	2,094,600
935	630	China Banking Corp.	800	800	795	795	6,500
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,000,000
75.5	39	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company	51	51.5	50	50.5	3,673,900
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	47	47	52,200
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	500
39.57	14.78	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	23.25	23.25	22.75	22.75	1,158,800
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	68.5	68.5	68	68	427,100
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	56	56	56	56	30,000
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4	4	4	4	32,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2	2.02	1.92	1.94	3,047,000
16.25	2.8	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.5	228,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	40	41.5	6,500
1,800.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,870
5	2.95	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.5	3.5	3.35	3.4	4,156,000
1,005.00	230	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	750	750	750	750	100
2,320.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,315.00	2,320.00	2,315.00	2,320.00	1,810
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	98,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.95	1,706,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	400,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	65	65	63	63	51,500
92	48	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	74	74	72.5	72.5	1,076,600
15	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	14	14	13.5	13.5	2,571,400
105.45	16.82	Manila Electric Company	79	79	77.5	77.5	642,800
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6	6	5.9	5.9	22,823,000
6.5	3.8	Petron Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.1	3,541,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	24,000
1.9	0.95	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	340,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.1	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	348,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.72	1.74	346,000
6.9	2.55	Central Azucarera De Tarlac	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	112,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	1,000
61	33	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52	52	51	51.5	429,700
9	4.7	Pancake House Inc.	9	9	9	9	1,000
1.96	0.84	RFM Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.6	397,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.2	233,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. A	60	60	59.5	59.5	48,900
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. B	61	61	59.5	60	169,900
0.66	0.22	Swift Foods Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	30,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16	16	5,793,100
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.61	EEI Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.2	1,084,000
9.2	4.9	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	937,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.04	1.1	8,513,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.5	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.3	4.35	307,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	120,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.34	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.96	A. Soriano Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.2	352,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.0975	0.0975	0.095	0.095	12,500,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.73	0.78	0.72	0.73	73,900,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	330,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	22,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,500,000
9.7	4.95	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	1,412,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	84,700,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5	4,756,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.26	2.3	2.2	2.24	2,087,000
590	375	Ayala Corp.	492.5	500	492.5	492.5	707,190
5.8	1.22	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.55	3.6	3.4	3.5	10,519,000
10.25	3.65	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.2	8	8	366,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.7	3.95	3.7	3.95	60,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. A	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	57,000
3.55	1.2	House of Investments Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	260,000
14.5	5.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.5	1,021,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.66	1.74	1.66	1.68	384,000
11.5	1.1	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.65	4.7	4.55	4.6	1,645,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	7	7.1	7	7	106,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. A	0.165	0.18	0.16	0.16	554,980,000
1.54	0.75	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
0.75	0.175	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.39	0.43	0.39	0.4	13,210,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	100,000
452.5	217.7	SM Investments Corp.	352.5	352.5	347.5	350	694,700
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.35	0.35	61,810,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	250,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	26,300
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	2,440,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.81	A. Brown Company Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	165,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.9	8.1	7.8	7.9	298,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.73	0.75	0.7	0.7	430,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	14.25	14.5	13.75	14.25	16,231,200
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	773,000
4.7	2.65	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	12,000
0.86	0.31	Crown Equities Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.62	680,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.47	0.42	0.42	3,330,000
0.99	0.5	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.67	4,070,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.225	0.25	0.225	0.23	13,540,000
1.48	0.47	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.06	1.06	5,292,000
2.44	1.1	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.36	1.36	54,051,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.66	0.71	0.66	0.68	14,740,000
4.4	1.71	Megaworld Corp.	3	3.1	3	3.1	65,007,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.25	17.25	16.5	16.75	1,384,500
5.9	1.5	SM Development Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.65	3.65	934,000
13.5	6.4	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.25	10.5	8,052,900
3.25	0.87	Shang Properties Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	50,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.58	0.61	0.58	0.61	2,360,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	3,580,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5	5.1	4.95	5.1	576,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	15,800
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.1	1,616,000
1.14	0.91	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	2,377,000
1,445.00	1,030.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,320.00	1,340.00	1,320.00	1,340.00	280,970
2,820.00	2,130.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,705.00	2,730.00	2,705.00	2,710.00	111,150
7.9	4.15	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.9	1,138,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.185	4,810,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.5	8.6	8.3	8.5	734,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.03	52,700,000
0.32	0.043	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.18	0.18	25,200,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	65,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	9,500,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l. Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	391,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	72,000
6.8	3.2	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.75	380,000
34.5	15.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32	507,200
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.85	765,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	40,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.9	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	4.55	4.6	4.5	4.55	604,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	230,000
30	10	Paxys Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.75	253,800
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	298,200,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	160,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.4	5.5	5.1	5.1	59,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14	14.25	13.75	14	1,809,400
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. A	11	11	10.75	10.75	39,100
35	23	Benguet Corp. B	27	27	27	27	8,100
3.1	0.41	GEOGRACE Res. Philippines Inc.	1.82	1.86	1.72	1.78	119,265,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	44,760,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.31	24,580,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.028	0.029	0.027	0.027	575,800,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.032	0.032	0.03	0.03	125,300,000
30	1.2	NiHAO Minerals Res. Int'l Inc.	11.5	12	10.75	10.75	1,165,400
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	113,700,000
6.8	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.6	16,307,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	340,400
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.99	0.99	800,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.18	1,357,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.33	23,480,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	344,300,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	28,300,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.9	10	9.8	9.8	18,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.025	0.026	0.024	0.025	633,300,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	867.09	DOWN	3.47	17,259,380	484,569,055.00
Industrial	4,352.51	DOWN	83.58	95,226,900	500,455,640.00
Holding Firms	1,844.64	DOWN	5.12	856,216,890	876,642,375.00
Property	1,426.06	DOWN	11.85	196,056,600	649,509,970.00
Service	1,614.18	UP	2.40	101,804,920	746,539,540.00
Mining & Oil	6,409.81	DOWN	185.66	2,353,048,400	452,688,145.00
All Shares Index	2,074.94	DOWN	12.63		
PSEI	3,289.75	DOWN	17.68		
		GRAND TOTALS		3,619,613,090	3,710,404,725.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

CURRENCIES

September 18, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.721033	1.000000	46.2410
Japan	Yen	0.006260	0.008682	0.4015
United Kingdom	Pound	1.438244	1.994700	92.2369
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.092589	0.128411	5.9379
Switzerland	Franc	0.607287	0.842247	38.9463
Canada	Dollar	0.701666	0.973141	44.9990
Singapore	Dollar	0.475709	0.659761	30.5080
Australia	Dollar	0.602517	0.835631	38.6404
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.912705	2.652731	122.6649
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.192265	0.266652	12.3303
Brunei	Dollar	0.474145	0.657592	30.4077
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000107	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022476	0.031172	1.4414
UAE	Dirham	0.196333	0.272294	12.5911
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.386900	64.1316
Korea	Won	0.000777	0.001078	0.0498
China	Yuan**	0.095848	0.132931	6.1469
Denmark	Kroner	0.134266	0.186213	8.6107
India	Rupee	0.017825	0.024722	1.1432
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206807	0.286821	13.2629
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510285	0.707714	32.7254
Sweden	Kroner	0.107675	0.149334	6.9054
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021797	0.030230	1.3979

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 17, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 17, 2007

Improved ...

From page B1

as well as the additional revenues from privatization, we are confident we will be able to sustain this performance until the end of the year, and help us achieve our target of keeping the budget deficit at P63 billion this year."

Of the P117.1 billion revenue collected in August, the BIR accounted for P79.6 billion. The BOC accounted for P20.9 billion of total revenue for the month. The Bureau of the Treasury and other offices accounted for the remaining P16.6 billion.

RP exports now less vulnerable to currency swings

From page B1

chinery with a high reliance on imported components."

The real exchange rate is a broad summary measure of the prices of one country relative to the prices of another or to a group of countries, both expressed in a common currency.

In contrast, the ADB said Indonesia had much greater product diversification in its export basket and had been slow in joining international production networks of multinational enterprises.

The reliance on primary and traditional manufactured exports was possibly making Indonesian exports more sensitive to the real exchange rate, the ADB said.

"The results point to supply-side variables (production capacity measures) as becoming more important influences on the region's export performance than movements in the real exchange rate, as production networks of multinational enterprises expand," the ADB said.

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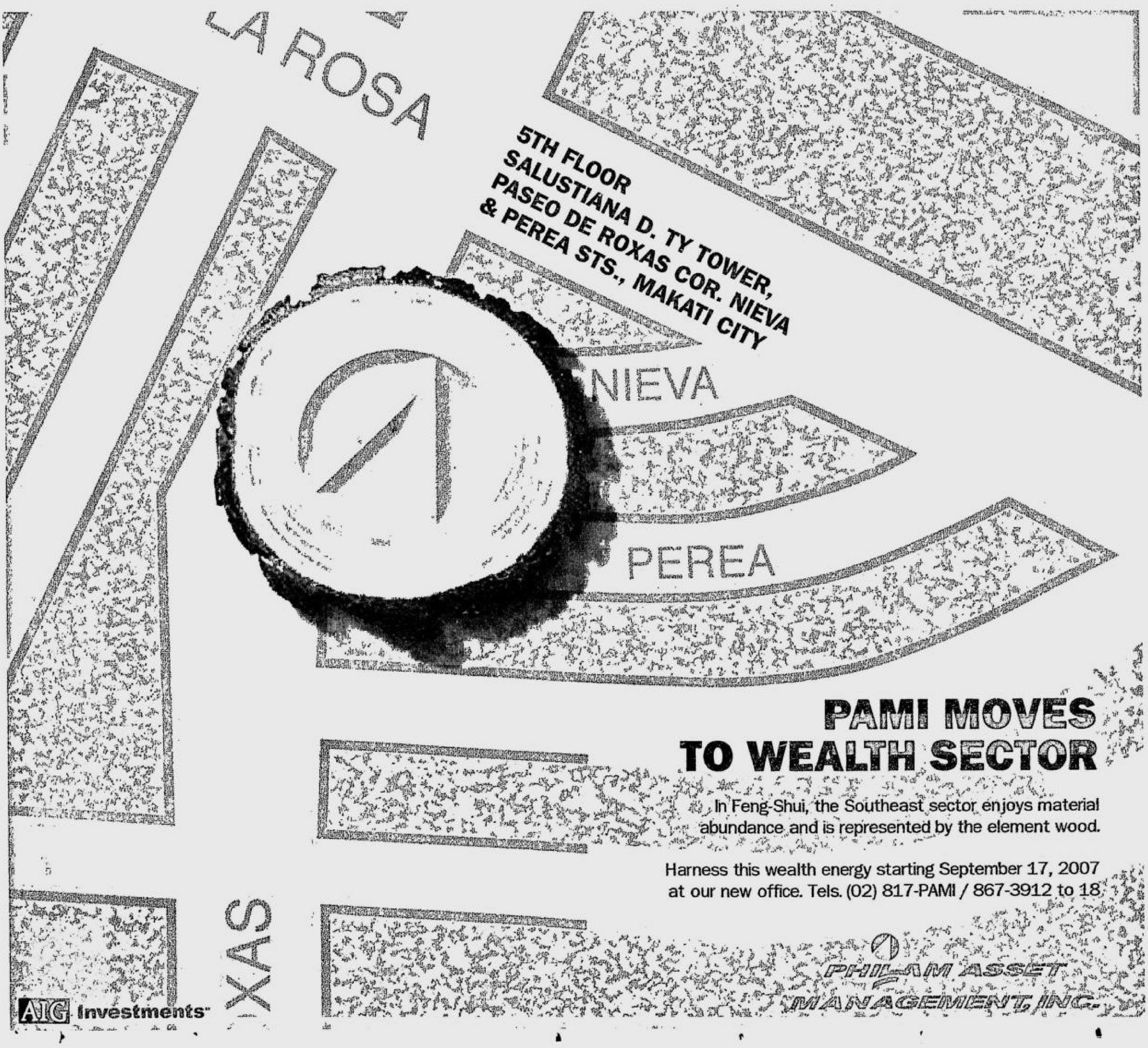

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I-Remit opens office in Vienna

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FINANCIAL SERVICES FIRM I-REMIT INC. (iRemit) yesterday said it had opened an office in Vienna, Austria to expand its reach in Europe.

The move is part of iRemit's efforts to enhance strategic marketing alliances and initiatives in countries thickly populated by Filipinos.

The Filipino population in Austria was estimated at 30,000, composed mainly of female nurses and their families. The company said this was expected to further expand.

The new iRemit office is located at the heart of the city, between the Philippine Embassy and St. Stephen's Cathedral where most Filipinos congregate. It is also a popular tourist area.

Since it entered the market in 2001, iRemit has successfully grown its business by providing a more efficient and reliable service to Filipinos at very competitive rates.

iRemit has been expanding aggressively to reach a greater number of Filipinos overseas and to provide them with first-class remittance services.

The company now operates in 24 countries, including those in Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East and North America.

Gov't to borrow ₱72B in 4th quarter

By Michelle V. Remo

TAN

THE GOVERNMENT IS SCHEDULED TO borrow P72 billion from the domestic capital market in the fourth quarter to complete its financing program for the entire year.

For the third quarter, the programmed domestic borrowings were set at P82 billion.

Under its borrowing program for 2007, the government had targeted to raise P260.1 billion from the domestic capital market through the sale of treasury bills and bonds and another P130.7 billion from foreign sources.

The government borrows money to fund expenditures that could not be covered by its revenues, and to pay maturing obligations.

The government's budget deficit is expected to reach only P63 billion this year, lower than last year's P64.8 billion. This means the bigger portion of government borrowings was earmarked for debt servicing.

Foreign funds are raised through the flotation of sovereign bonds in the global market and tapping official development assistance from multilateral and bilateral institutions.

The biggest sources of ODAs are the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Finance Undersecretary and acting National Treasurer Roberto Tan said the government's domestic borrowings this year could be lower than the programmed P260.1 billion due to failed auctions for government securities in previous months.

The government said that although tax collection agencies did not meet their targets in the first semester, measures to improve tax collection in the second half and efforts to privatize state assets were seen to enable the country to hit meet its budget deficit projection.

BTr rejects bids for 5-yr T-bonds

THE GOVERNMENT REjected all bids for the five-year treasury bonds yesterday, saying the market was seeking for absurdly high interest rates.

Had the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted the bids, the rate for the five-year bonds could have hit 6.756 percent, up 78.9 basis points from the 5.967 percent recorded in the last auction for these bonds in May.

Finance Undersecretary and acting National Treasurer Roberto Tan said the government could opt not to borrow if the rates were too high as the state's cash position was still healthy.

Tenders for the five-year bonds reached P16.105 billion, while the debt offering was only P7 billion.

"The rates they were asking for were not acceptable," Tan said in a briefing after yesterday's auction.

Banks, he said, should not be seeking too much increase in interest rates considering the government's positive fiscal position.

The. Department of Finance said the government was on track to meeting its goal of reducing its budget deficit to P63 billion this year after tax collections in July and August recovered from the shortfalls in the first half.

Tan also said there were expectations that the US Federal Reserve would ease its monetary policy in its next board meeting to reverse the ongoing slowdown in the US economy. This should result in lower domestic interest rates.

He said the government's programmed borrowings for the year was set at P260 billion. *Michelle V. Remo*

Bangko Sentral incurs ₱50B in forex losses

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS posted P50 billion in foreign exchange losses from January to July due to its buying of excess US dollars in the system to temper the peso's appreciation, the central bank's latest unaudited financial statement showed.

In the first semester, the BSP's forex losses were placed at P32 billion and this widened further in July as it stepped up its buying operations in view of the continued strong inflows of remittances from overseas Filipinos and of foreign exchange investments in the stock market.

The forex losses—the biggest incurred by the BSP so far—translated to a net deficit of P39.2 billion for the central bank in the first seven months. The BSP posted a P7-billion net profit in the same period last year.

But excluding the impact of foreign exchange transactions, the BSP would have posted a net profit of P10.66 billion during the period. From January to July, its revenue amounted to P44.7 billion as against expenses worth P34.04 billion.

Since the start of the year, the BSP has been heavily buying dollars at the spot foreign exchange market to temper sharp foreign exchange fluctuations even when the greenback had been on a downtrend. The peso has nevertheless risen by around 5 percent against the US dollar since the start of this year.

The BSP's heavy dollar-buying resulted in the rise of the country's forex reserves, which hit $30 billion in end-August.

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QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE Gokongwei and Lopez groups wanted to sell their holdings totaling 72 percent of Philippine Commercial and Industrial Bank. PCI was saddled with huge dollar borrowings which were being lent out in pesos. It was getting clobbered as the peso weakened in relation to the dollar.

Equitable Bank wanted to buy out Gokongwei and Lopez, but did not have enough resources. The SSS and the GSIS agreed to invest P8 billion each, or a total of P16 billion, into a joint venture with Equitable to acquire PCI.

To raise the cash, the SSS borrowed P4 billion from the short term market. This was probably the only time in the whole, wide world when a social security system borrowed short-term money. When the short-term loan fell due, the SSS had to sell its inventory of prime stocks, such as Ayala, Meralco and PLDT.

The purchase of PCI went through. To the SSS, the acquisition cost of the merged bank was P87 per share. After the merger, the value of the share started dropping at the exchanges. The SSS foolishly decided to prop up the share by buying more shares. But even the SSS did not have the resources to keep propping up the share. By the time the SSS gave up, it had doubled its holdings to P16 billion.

On the other hand, the GSIS stood pat with its original holdings.

The SSS kept digging for itself a deeper and deeper hole, as it held on to the shares while the value plummeted, breaking its own inhouse rule to unload if a share dropped beyond a certain point.

When the share was quoted at P33 per share, Banco de Oro, acting as the white knight coming to save a maiden fair, offered to pay P43 per share in cold cash. But the SSS could not agree as the books would have to show a loss of 50 percent of acquisition cost. This would result in cutting the operating budget, which the SSS was in no mood to do.

So, an installment plan was cooked. BDO was to pay P1.0 billion as down payment and the P7.0 billion balance was to be paid over seven years at 9 percent interest a year. This accounting witchcraft was supposed to wipe out the prospective loss.

The Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) got a Makati Regional Court to block the BDO/SSS agreement.

PARP brought the case to Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, who got interested. His committee held several public hearings. Finally, Senators Flavier, Biazon, Lim (now Manila mayor) and Madrigal, and civilians Luis and Patricia Sison, joined Senator Osmeña in bringing the case to the Supreme Court.

Last week, in a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the case had become moot and academic.

The decision opens the way for finalizing BDO's latest offer of P92 per share, or a total of P17.3 billion (now actually being held by the SSS in escrow).

The SSS is now awash with cash. Its books will now balance without accounting sleight-of-hand. Best of all, the retirees will get their 10-percent across-the-board increase in pensions as promised in the last electoral campaign. All's well that ends well.

Local call center puts up affiliate in US

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A HOMEGROWN CALL CENTER operator yesterday said it had put up an affiliate in the United States in preparation for the expansion of its operations in that market.

Gary Manansala, general manager of WinSource Solutions Inc. (WSI), said the company had established WinSource Solutions USA Inc. to initially serve as a marketing arm in the United States.

"(WinSource USA) would eventually be the focal point of our US-based initiatives," Manansala said.

Asked why the firm is expanding to the United States when foreign call center firms are putting up their operations here to take advantage of the lower costs, Manansala said the goal was to tap markets rather than to minimize expenses.

"There is still a large part of the outsourcing market in the US that is untapped, but many of the potential clients preferred dealing with a US company," he said.

WSI currently operates a 300-seat call center at the Robinsons Cybergate Center in Mandaluyong City, mainly offering customer support.

"WSI is looking to leverage on the operations of Winsource USA for further expansion of its operations in North America in the foreseeable future," Manansala explained. "A core objective for WinSource USA is to facilitate the acquisition of a US-based call center."

Poultry sector seeks increased agri investments

By Amy R. Remo

THE POULTRY SECTOR has urged the government to invest heavily in the production of corn, coconut oil and molasses to address the rising cost of commodities.

In a joint position paper submitted to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, the United Broiler Raisers' Association and National Egg Boards explained that "with the rise of China, India and Russia, there has been an upward trend in the prices of commodities, both agricultural and industrial."

"On the one hand, this is a threat because it increases the costs of feed inputs like soya, amino acids, choline, toxin binders and other feed additives," it said. "On the other hand, it is also an opportunity because the prices of competing chicken products have also been rising."

But for such trends to become an opportunity for Philippine poultry industry, there must be greater investments in agriculture.

The Ubra and Egg Boards also said there was a need to extend the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund.

Acef, under RA 8178, is set to expire at the end of the year.

"The Acef can be an additional war chest for the Agriculture secretary to target specific provinces or regions that could give the nation fastest and highest returns in terms of additional production," the paper said.

The Acef can be tapped for irrigation, farm-to-market roads, post-harvest equipment and research and development.

Ubra and the Egg Board said in the paper that if both the government and the private sector address these concerns, it will benefit not only the Philippine poultry sector but also its allied sectors such as corn, coco oil, molasses, veterinary pharmaceuticals and equipment manufacturers.

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	One (1) lot Supply, delivery and installation of various Kitchen Equipment and Appliances at the Security Plant Complex Dining and Staff Dining Halls located at East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, per BSP Scope of Work, Equipment Specifications, MEP Schedules and Drawings
Approved Budget for the Contract	P8,810,608.00
Completion Period	Within 120 calendar days after receipt of the approved contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken at least three (3) similar requirements awarded and completed from Y1997 to present, one of which costs at least 50% of the ABC. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 19 September 2007, up to 2:00 p.m. only
2. Site Inspection	27 & 28 September 2007
3. Pre-bid Conference	5 October 2007, 10:00 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids	23 October 2007, 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P4,410.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 19, 2007)

Provincial Government of Bukidnon

Project Reference Number 300-07-01A
Name of the Project Supply, Delivery & Installation of Medical Equipment
Location of the Project : BPH-Maramag, Poblacion, Maramag Bukidnon

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Name of Project : **Supply, Delivery & Installation of Medical Equipment**

Description/Location of the Project : *Water Bath, Patient Monitor with BP, ECG, Capnograph, Pulse Oximeter, Table Top Autoclave Sterilizer, Oil-Hydraulic Delivery Table (HM 605). Weighing Scale, physician type Height Scale, Low Speed Handpiece, Resuscitator, Pedia, Emergency Cart, stainless steel, Uretral dilatation set, stainless steel, (all sizes) Cautery Machine (derma) Fiber-optic Headlight with Projector Orthopedic bed. Ultra Violet Lamp with Stand, High back chair revolving, Mixter, stainless steel, Vascular Clamp, Stainless Steel Intestinal Clamp, Stainless Steel Tracheostomy, neonate, pedia, adult, stainless steel, Reamers, size: 8, 9, 10, 11, (Ortho) stainless steel, Dermatome, stainless steel, Lowmans, big, stainless steel, Rib Retractor, Pedia (Thoracic Surgery) Rib Retractor, Adult (Thoracic Surgery) Rib Approximator, Adult (Thoracic Surgery)Rib Approximator, Pedia (Thoracic Surgery) Gomco Thoracic pump (Thoracic Surgery) Pail Stainless steel (medium), Kelly pad Basin, stainless steel, Wheeled Chair with brake & IV stand Snelen's chart (picture chart for illiterate) Drop Light (gooseneck), Fetoscope, Medical Chart Rackstainless steel (50 charts capacity) infusable infusor Medicine tray 40 holes capacity Thoracotomy Oxygen tank carriage, single Richardson Retractor, big, stainless steel, Army Navy Retractor, stainless steel, EXAMINING TABLE Kidney stone forcep sets (all sizes), PULSE OXIMETER with adjustable sensor for pedia & adult, Deaver Retractor, large, stainless steel* Made in Germany, USA, Japan and Korea only for the BPH- Maramag, North Poblacion, Maramag, Bukidnon.

Approved Budget for the Contract : **Three Million Five Hundred Eighty One Thousand, Three Hundred Twenty Seven Pesos (P 3,581,327.00)**

Project Completion/Duration : Fifteen (15) Calendar Days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bidding Conference Performance Security, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

1. Advertisement	September 13-19, 2007	Provincial Website, GEPS, Vicinity of PGSO PGO, PTO & BAC Office
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 13-20, 2007	Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
3. Pre-bidding Conference	September 21, 2007 10:00 A.M.	BAC Conference Room, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
4. Opening of Bids Deadline for Submission of Bids	October 1, 2007 10:00 P.M. Not later than 9:30 P.M.	BAC Conference Room, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable Bid documents fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P 1,000.00). For Inquiry, Please call Telephone Nos. 088-221-2537 and 088-221-4820.

The *Provincial Government of Bukidnon* assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved:
(Sgd.) JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 19, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

LIEZEL DUPAY VITALIS & ELLEN GRACE VILLA CASANDRA

This is to inform the public that **LIEZEL DUPAY VITALIS & ELLEN GRACE VILLA CASANDRA**, whose pictures appear above are no longer connected with **CANYON WOODS RESIDENTIAL RESORT**, including its all affiliates project effective September 19, 2007 and September 2, 2007 respectively.

Please be informed that our company will not honor any transaction made by them on our behalf after the said dates.

(PDI – September 16 & 19, 2007)

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would like to invite everyone to a Healing Mass to be officiated by Fr. Teo Rustia to be held on Friday, September 21, 2007 at 12 noon.

This mass will be held in anticipation of the Feast of St. Padre Pio on the 23rd of September.

The chapel is located at the 4th Floor of Goodwill Building 393 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

For further details, you may call (632) 895.86.84

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) invites Sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for different projects funded under approved NEA loan:

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Interested eligible bidders may obtain additional information and inspect Bidding Documents at the office of the ISD Manager/BAC Chairman Guia R. Victorio.

Bidding Documents may be purchased starting September 26, 2007 by an Interested Eligible Bidder to the BAC Chairman and upon payment of Non-refundable pay of P3,500.00.

Sealed envelopes containing the technical and financial proposals in separate envelopes duly marked as such will be received by the BAC at the Board Room on or before 10:00 a.m. on October 12, 2007 at which time and place the technical proposals will be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of bidders found eligible to bid will then be opened and read in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend, otherwise, they will be returned unopened to ineligible bidders

A pre-bid conference will be held on October 2, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Board Room.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security, in cash or cashier's check, in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the amount of bid. This bid security shall be valid at least 150 days starting from the date of bid opening.

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby reserves the right to reject any of all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects of infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may considered most advantageous to the cooperative.

(Sgd.) **GUIA R. VICTORIO**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **DEMETRIO O. JEREZ, PEE**
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 19 & 24, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development - Central Visayas
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - CENTRAL VISAYAS (DOH-CV)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to re-bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	CATERING SERVICE FOR DOH-CHD CENTRAL VISAYAS' PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR - (SECOND RE-BIDDING)
Location	Cebu City
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	**PhP2,937,000.00**
Contract Duration	One Year

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	**September 19-26, 2007** DOH-CV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
2. Pre-bid Conference	**None.** (This is a second re-bidding. Pre-bidding may be conducted if requested by prospective bidders.)
3. Opening of Bids	**October 2, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.** Tugas Conference Room, DOH-CV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,000.00 in cash to the DOH-CV Cashier

The Department of Health - Central Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Dates of Posting: September 10-26, 2007

Department of Health - Central Visayas
Mrs. Elizabeth P. Tabasa - BAC Secretariat Chairperson
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
Telephone No.: (032) 253-6359
miggerson@yahoo.com (032) 253-3419 Telefax
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(Sgd.) **ENGR. MIGUEL T. GERSON**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 19, 2007)

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/S.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
PACIFIC STAR & SEO HYUN TOUR CORP. 4/F Coretown Bldg. 2822 EDSA Extension, Pasay City	Soonghee Lee Korean	Tour Operation Manager
POYRY ENERGY INC. 8/F Kings Court 1 Bldg., 2129 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City	Richard William Brockwell British	Construction Manager
KITCHEN SUPERCENTER, INC. 8006 Pioneer St. cor. United & Brixton Sts., Pasig City	Xingyong Li Chinese	Maintenance Team Leader
TEAM ENERGY CORPORATION 5/F CTC Bldg., 2232 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Yoshikazu Handa Japanese	Advisor
TEAM ENERGY CORPORATION 5/F CTC Bldg., 2232 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Katsuya Harada Japanese	Vice President-Treasury
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Kuang-Yang Chen Taiwanese	Systems Engineer
CAMOX PHILIPPINES INC. 1646 Evangelista cor. Belarmino Sts., Bangkal, Makati City	Jude Aristotle Alemao Indian	Consultant
GEIL CHUNG INTERNATIONAL CORP. Rm. 209 Antel Seaview Tower, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Hyun Cheal Park Korean	General Manager
GEIL CHUNG INTERNATIONAL CORP. Rm 209 Antel Seaview Tower, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Hui Sung Chun Korean	Asst. General Manager
BRISBANE TECHNOLOGIES, INC. U-1502 OMM Citra Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Dennis Henry Hickman British	General Manager
NDE DIGI-TECH, INC. Unit 209 Plaza B. Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Takeshi Inoue Japanese	Quality Control Manager
GONGAN INTERIOR INC. 11/F Legaspi Tower, 300 Roxas Blvd., Manila	Hyun Kyung An Korean	General Manager
SONG DO KOREAN RESTAURANT ADB Ave., cor. J. Vargas Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Gi-Young Bae Korean	Chief Cook
KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES 39/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Danny Ravesteijin Dutch	Regional Financial Controller, South China Sea
AIR DRILLING ASSOCIATES PTE. LTD. 7/F SGV Bldg. II, 6758 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jason Scott Mcomish New Zealander	Air Drilling Supervisor
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING & INNOVATION CONSULTING, INC. 10/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City	Michael Frederic Marty Swiss	Corporate Business Trainer
CONCEPT ONE MANAGEMENT SERVICES 3/F #25 Bautista cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Richard Adam Ostrowski American	Executive Producer
SUSHI KAPPO KOBIKI-CHO, INC. G-3 Jaka II Bldg., Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Yusuke Hino Japanese	Chef
SONY PHILIPPINES, INC. 8/F Net Square Bldg., 3rd Ave. cor. 28th St., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Leanne Mahoney American	Manager, Call Centre
TIRUPATI INT'L., INC. Veca Bldg., Pasong Tamo cor. Estrella St., San Antonio Village, Makati City	Saurabh Madnani Indian	Manager for Import & Export

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–September 19, 2007)

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MICHAEL ABLAZA OSMEÑA

President and Vice Chairman of the Board
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC)

Member, Board of Directors, Philippine National Bank (PNB)
Former Director, Philippine Bank of Communications (PBCom)
Former President, Alabang Country Club, Inc.
Director and Vice President – Finance, Federation of Golf Clubs in the Philippines
Former Senior Vice President, ABN-AMRO Bank
Former Senior Vice President, BA Savings Bank
Former Assistant President, Citibank N.A.

Peacefully joined our Creator and his loving mother, **DRA. DOLORES ABLAZA OSMEÑA** (†) at 5:00 p.m., September 17, 2007.

His loving Wife **CHERRY MAPUA**; Sons **RAMON, ANTON** and **STEFAN**; father **ATTY. RAMON M. OSMEÑA**; Siblings **ANNABELLE** and **RICHARD B. NELSON**; **MARILES** and **RAFFY AGUADO**; **RAYMOND, TRIXIE** (†), and **CHINGGAY** and **PINCUS LIBORO**; Mother-in-law **LULA**; Brothers and sisters-in-law **STEVE, STELLA, JIMMY, LISA, MIKE** and **RAFFY** and their spouses, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains will lie in state at Manila Memorial Funeraria Paz Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Saturday, September 22, 2007 at St. James the Great Church, Ayala Alabang Village after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass.

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LYDIA GONZALEZ SEMPIO

Joined her Creator on September 16, 2007 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children **Herminia, Rustica, Corazon, Blandina, Aurora, Marcelina, Eugenia, Rosalinda, Camila, Marcelo** and **Joseph**; sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Cagayan de Oro City.

Interment will be today, September 19, 2007 at Cagayan de Oro Gardens, Cagayan de Oro City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

NICASIO "Nick" MACIAS MONTAÑO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 15, 2007 at the age of 73.

His loving wife **Rosalinda Aseniero Montaño** (†); children **Thaddeus** & **Joanne, Pancratius** & **Gina, Stephen** & **Farah Mae, Lourdes** & **Louie, Francisco** & **Anne Marie, Catherine** & **Steven**; grandchildren **Marie France, Camille, Luis, Manolo, Thomas Jude, Ma. Beatriz, Nico, Mariella, Anna, Mikee, Martha, Paolo** & **Jose Martin**; siblings **Antonio** (†) & **Elizabeth, Lucia** (†) & **Ricardo** (†), **Teresita** & **Rodaballo** (†), **Dolores** & **Heracleo** (†), **Jose** (†) & **Herminia**, all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at his residence in Turno, Dipolog City. Interment will be on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church, Turno, Dipolog City.

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Ramon Sia- Bicol Medical Center A21
Department of Labor and Employment A21
Home Guaranty A21

Architect FRANCISCO VERGARA ANGELES

Died in the Grace of Our Lord
on September 7, 2007
at the age of 87.

His bereaved wife **Lolita (nee Vitug)**, children **Domingo, Rosario, Manuel, Romeo, Jorge, Aurora, Feome, Ramon, Gil, Alma** & **Agnes** and grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Chapel 1A.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 23, 2007, 9:00 a.m. at Manila North Cemetery.

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
DR. RENATO ANDRES	Chapel 1	Sept. 19, 2007 8:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory
DR. JUAN C. LAMASAN, JR.	Imperial Classic Chapel	Sept. 19, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass	Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina

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> — 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

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Two more tobacco firms buck tax order

By Michelle V. Remo

TWO MORE CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS have asked the Department of Finance to reconsider its decision to lower the excise tax on Pall Mall cigarettes produced by competitor British American Tobacco (BAT).

Associated Anglo-American Tobacco Corp. (Anglo-American) and Japan Tobacco International Philippines (JTI) said in separate letters to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves that his office erred when it allowed BAT to pay a lower excise tax rate.

The appeal made by the two cigarette makers echoed a similar complaint raised earlier by Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris.

"We would like to express our support to the request of Philip Morris and Fortune Tobacco for a reconsideration of the ruling and respectfully ask the Department of Finance to reverse its decision on the matter," said Hamish Moore, JTI general manager, in the Sept. 14 letter to Teves.

JTI is the licensor of the Camel and Winston cigarette brands. Anglo-American, on the other hand, manufactures lower-priced cigarette brands, including Asia Boston Menthol 100's, Casino Royale Filter King, Balasang Filter, Villa Escudero Menthol King, Balita Filter and Balita Matamis.

The complaint stemmed from the DOF's decision to lower the excise tax rate on Pall Mall cigarettes to P6.74 a pack from P26 a pack when Pall Mall was imported and sold by duty-free shops.

Seipi pushes nuke power generation

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONIC Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) is urging the government to venture into nuclear power generation, saying this is the only way for the country to have competitive power rates in the long term.

Seipi chair Arthur Young said in an interview that the country's power rates remained among the highest in the region, despite recent efforts to reduce power rates for industries.

For the country to become more competitive and to stay that way in the next 10-15 years, he said the government should seriously consider nuclear power generation.

"Nuclear power would be one way for the country to remain competitive in the next 10-15 years. Otherwise, we don't see any alternative. Natural gas is one, but we only have a limited supply (of that). Geothermal is also good and solar also, but it's quite expensive," he said.

He added that current technology allows governments to tap nuclear power resources without compromising the safety of people and the environment.

If the country would not start a nuclear power program soon, he said countries such as Vietnam and Taiwan would likely dislodge the Philippines from the radar of possible locators, considering that power accounts for around 10-20 percent of a company's costs.

The Department of Energy will be creating a special group that will be tasked with studying the feasibility of harnessing nuclear resources for power generation, including the possibility of refiring the 620-megawatt Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

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The 'tough' visits the 'fearless'

By Tessa R. Salazar

Ford Group Philippines president Rick Baker visits the INQUIRER 'barracks' to get the feel of the 'hot guns.' Boy, were we smokin'

SPEAK loud but drive a small car. The Verve concept espouses the beauty and efficiency of being small. But would big Baker fit in one?

THE FORMER VIETNAM War veteran certainly looked towering from a distance, and he loomed even larger as he, along with the other Ford Group Philippines delegates Florina Vistal, Cherry Ramirez and Vinay Piparsania, climbed up the grand spiral staircase of the INQUIRER main offices.

The man looked like he meant business, all right. And his career background gave us a hint that he walked the straight and very narrow path. He exuded the air of authority only long years in military service and actual combat could give. And his imposing 6'1" presence cannot be ignored—not in the battlefield, not in a board meeting, and certainly not in a press conference.

"Are you a CIA agent?" this writer blithely asked this Vermont native in a phone interview once. His voice expressionless, Baker denied he was one.

So much for trying to break the ice.

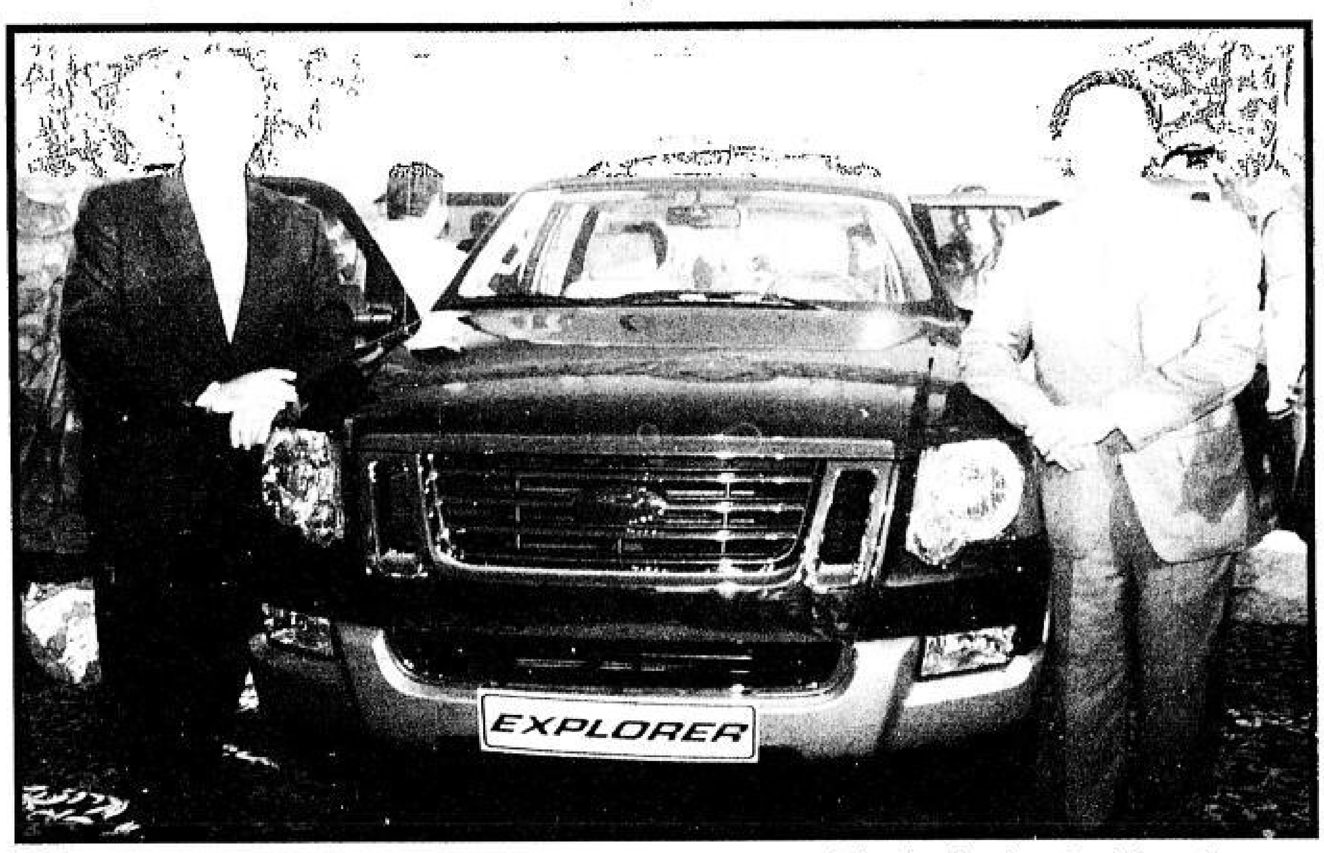
This Sept. 12 evening, however, as Baker faced a number of INQUIRER Business and Motoring reporters, he was in a merrier mood, catching and batting away alternately insightful and inane questions like his favorite team the Boston Red Sox.

Baker was marking his 30th year in Ford Motor Co. this month. He recalled that prior to a career shift to Ford, in 1972, his military ship assigned to the US Seventh Fleet docked twice in what was once the Subic Naval Base.

Exposé

But now, he noted that Subic was a hotbed of smuggling activities and he praised INQUIRER reporters for its exposé on vehicle smuggling. He also said, with a smile, that perhaps "the next Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein" could come from this newspaper. (Woodward and Bernstein were the reporters from Washington Post that exposed the Watergate Scandal that eventually led to US President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974.)

Baker would also later learn that six years ago, INQUIRER Motoring had already been running a series of reports on the alleged unsafe conversion practices of the Subic smugglers.



FORD Chair Henry Co is the long range 'sniper' while Baker is the master in hand-to-hand combat. The perfect team, Baker declares.

Baker reiterated that converting original right-hand drive vehicles to left-hand drive would inherently be unsafe. "It's impossible to convert a vehicle and expect to have the same characteristics as it originally had."

Baker revealed that this was why some markets "can't get certain vehicles. They're never engineered to be right-hand drive or left-hand drive."

"And there's a reason for that," he added. "It's not because automakers want to get rich by holding things back but because the laws of science kind of make the obvious conclusion."

Everyday car, dream car

Baker, whose three sons, parents and siblings all drive Ford vehicles, chose an Expedition as his everyday car. He cited the SUV's safety and comfort, and enough space to allow him to work as he travels. His dream car, however, is a Jaguar XKE.

"When I was about 15, I lived down a street from a doctor and he had a yellow convertible XKE sports car, and he used to wash it every Saturday afternoon in his driveway. I always just kind of stop and talk to him. And after a while, I ended up washing the car. I have never forgotten how cool that was. So, the Jaguar has always been my dream car because of that," Baker narrated.

But back to reality, how would Filipinos feel the spirit of "Fordism" here and now in the Ford brand itself, in the light of cut-throat competition among supposedly low-

THE TOUGH/ B2-2

Volvo Cars focuses on fuel efficeincy

THE ENVIRONment is in sharp focus on the Volvo Cars booth at Frankfurt Motor Show.

The company presents a number of technical solutions designed to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, including the Volvo ReCharge Concept—a C30 with a unique plug-in hybrid system.

"We are working toward a multi-energy society where several energy-efficient solutions interact to deal with the complex climate issues," said Volvo Cars president and CEO Fredrik Arp.

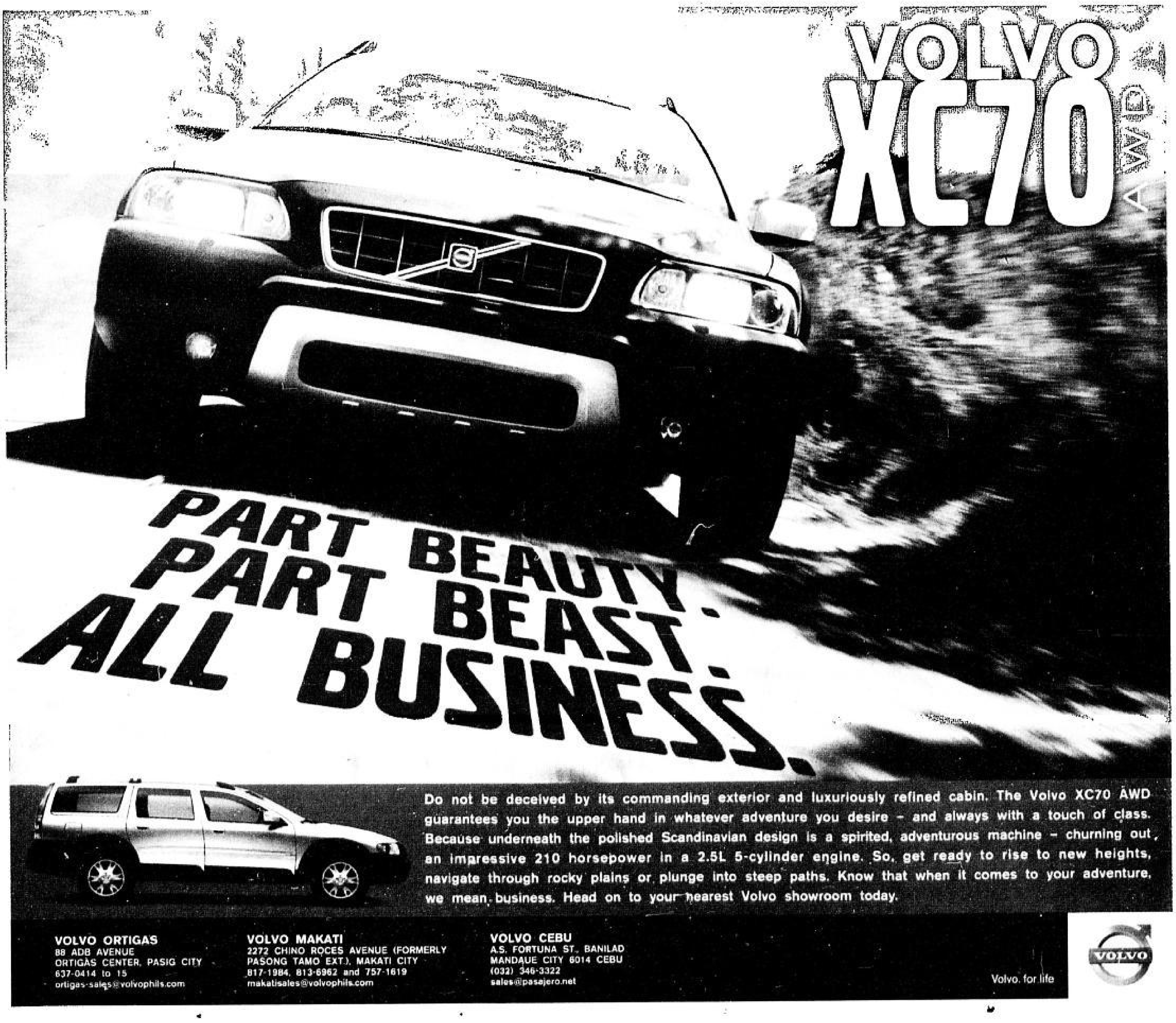
"The carbon dioxide issue has of course top priority. In order to deal effectively with the CO_2 challenge, we must work with several different technological solutions that cover our entire model range," Arp explained.

Energy efficiency

The terms "alternative fuels" and "fuel consumption" are frequently used in the car industry. However, when discussing the future, Volvo Cars prefers to go via "multi-fuel" to the far broader terms "multi-energy" and "energy efficiency."

"In order to more accurately judge the environmental effect of a new driveline, it is necessary to examine the entire chain from raw material

TITLE/ B2



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Colin McRae, 1968-2007

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

A SECOND-GENERATION RALLY DRIVER and son of five-time British Rally Champion Jimmy McRae, Colin McRae began his driving career in 1986 in the local Scottish Rally Championships series. Only a year later, he got his initial World Rally Championship (WRC) exposure and over a career spanning 20 years secured two of his own British Rally Championships and the WRC driver's crown in 1995.

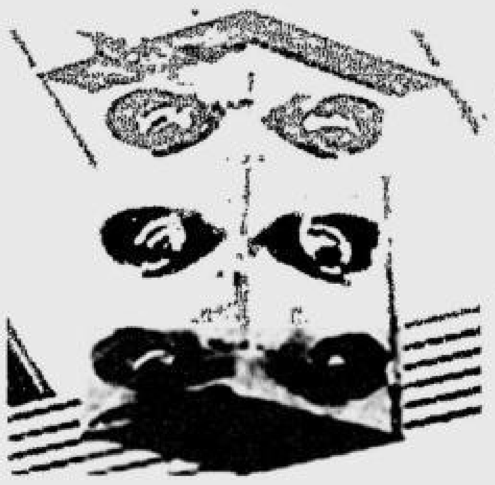
Colin McRae is Britain's first-ever World Rally Champion. His record of 25 WRC victories is the fourth most successful at the highest level of rallying—one short of "El Matador" Carlos Sainz and one more than fierce rival Tommi Makinen.

Considered as one of the greatest rally drivers of his generation, Colin McRae was awarded an MBE (member of the Order of the British Empire) in 1996 by Queen Elizabeth II for his achievement in the sport. He died tragically on Saturday.

TRANSPORT TRIVIA

By Emman Cena

On traffic lights



GONE WERE THE DAYS WHEN POLICE officers had to be stationed on every busy corner of the metropolis to regulate traffic flow. More than they accentuate our dark streets, traffic lights assign the right-of-way and movement of traffic gridlock. But did you know where in the world traffic lights first installed and whose mind was behind those tri-colored flickering lights?

It was said that the world's first traffic light was born even before the automobile was in use. In 1868 at an intersection in London, a revolving lantern with red and green signals was installed. A year later, this traffic light exploded, injuring the policeman believed to be operating it.

POTTS

In 1920, with the surge of automobiles cramping the streets, William L. Potts, a police officer from Detroit, Michigan, installed yet another set of street lights at the corner of the Woodward and Michigan Avenues in Detroit. Potts used red, amber and green railroad lights and about $37 US worth of wire and electrical controls to make the world's first 4-way three color traffic light.

Years later, many inventors followed through. Garrett Morgan of Cleveland, Ohio designed an electric automatic traffic light which best resembles the semaphore signals we have these days. Morgan's patent soon was purchased by General Electric Corp. eventually making its name on traffic light manufacture.

Reference: www.ideafinder.com/history/inventions/trafficlight.htm

The 'tough' visits the 'fearless'

From page B2-1

er-priced brand cars in the country? ("Fordism" was a word coined in 1914 which meant Ford founder Henry Ford's combination of highly-efficient factories, highly-paid skilled workers and low prices that revolutionized manufacturing.)

Baker replied that the things that were important to (Henry) Ford back then were still important today.

"We want to be able to make cars that people can afford and people want to own. That's really our goal. And if we do that well and better than competition then we will win and if we don't do it better than competition then we will probably end up not winning," he said.

As opposed to a numbers race in the automotive manufacturing market nearly a century ago when a Ford Model T unit came out of the assembly line every three hours, Baker said today's automotive wars revolved around "diversity."

The Philippine market, he revealed, is no different. He cited the Focus turbo diesel as a major participant in the "C" segment. He added that Ford has been producing turbo diesel common-rail direct-injection or TDCI-powered vehicles (its answer to the hugely popular CRDi-powered diesel vehicles) for several years, mostly for the more discerning European market that demanded more fuel-efficient performance cars.

Size wars

There's the choice between gasoline and diesel, and now there's that tug of war between upsizing and going small—going for the burly SUVs or the subcompact cars. What would be Baker's take on that?

Baker said, "Everybody tends to have their own agenda and make their cases based on selective facts but at the end of the day, people are going to decide what they want to buy. "And right now for the foreseeable future, people are going to want smaller, fuel-efficient cars and we're responding as everybody else. That's the way I see it."

He stressed that from Ford's corporate point of view, "Whether it's a big car or small car, it's got to be safe." And it has to be fuel-efficient as well.

ECOnetic badge

Today's automotive technology is making it possible for consumers to get the best of both worlds: fuel efficiency and safety. Baker cited, in particular, the recent 2007 Frankfurt Motor Show where Ford of Europe offered ultra-low CO_2 emission, fuel-efficient alternatives for selected car lines with the launch of the new range of Ford ECOnetic models.

Such cars use a combination of the latest common-rail diesel powertrains together with other carefully selected features engineered to reduce CO_2 emissions to the absolute minimum.

"I think the real potential is in compact cars, and while we don't offer one of those today, we will soon. We will be competing there just like everybody else."

To show that he's dead serious here, he pointed to Ford's Verve concept at the 2007 Frankfurt Motor Show, which he said would be the direction Ford small cars are taking. The Verve concept, a new esthetic inspired by mobile phones, reflects Ford's kinetic design philosophy of being "chic and modern."

"Someday in the future, you would probably have something like that running around the Philippines," he envisioned.

Sounds like a battle plan just waiting for the green light.

Motorists assured of better service with LTO Web portal, SMS facility

THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE recently introduced a website portal and Short Messaging Facility (SMS) that offers the motoring public relevant information such as how and where to get a driver's license, motor vehicle registration details or how much it will cost Juan dela Cruz to get a student permit among other services.

Transportation and Communications Assistant Secretary and LTO Chief Reynaldo Berroya said that initially the portal will offer online and real-time LTO transactions such as driver's license certification, motor vehicle certification, Law Enforcement & Traffic Adjudication (Letas) online apprehension settlement and LTO records verification.

Certification, settlement

The DL/MV Certification service will enable the motoring public, particularly the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), to apply for a driver's license and/or motor vehicle certification over the Web using various payment methods. OFWs don't have to come home to the Philippines just to apply for this document.

The Letas Online Settlement Service, on the other hand, provides an alternative way to settle uncontested apprehensions. It eliminates the hassles of queuing for hours just to pay at an LTO office. After settling the violation online, one just has to pick up the license or plate from the LTO office.

Record retrieval

As a value added service, the LTO Web Facility's Records Verification service allows members to retrieve records from the LTO-IT system database online and real time. It will enable members to conveniently verify authenticity of information pertaining to motor vehicles using plate number and/or engine and chassis number as search criteria and driver's license records with license number, name and/or birth date as criteria. Banks and other financing institutions are just some of the customers for which this service is designed.

The LTO Info-Text facility, on the other hand, provides the motoring public an avenue to access information regarding LTO procedures and document requirements through SMS. Simple and easy to understand text parameters shall be relayed to the public to make their LTO texting experience an easy and hassle-free one.

Another valuable feature the LTO Info-Text boasts is motor vehicle verification. The LTO text service allows you to check with the LTO database whether a vehicle is legit or not. With a simple text message, you can immediately find out if a car is truly registered with the LTO or if the vehicle has any pending apprehensions or alarms.

For the LTO Web portal, simply log on to www.lto.net.ph or www.xpresslane.com.ph. Text LTO (space) help to 2600 for text service.

MARKPROF FOUNDATION, INC. BUSINESS ACADEMY
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Josiah Go & Francis Kong
featuring the topics:
Strategic Focus Via Blue Ocean Strategy
You Inc. : Creating Your Personal Brand
OCT. 03 (WED) | 1:30 PM TO 5:30 PM | PHILAM LIFE THEATER UN AVENUE

With today's crowded arena, creating brands that resonate genuine consumer needs and stand out amongst competition become a challenge. How do you systematically make strategic moves that render competition irrelevant?

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PROGRAMME CONCEPT

"Stand Out" is the fusion of two strategic topics that features the rare tandem between the country's sole official lecturer on Blue Ocean Strategy, Josiah Go, and sought-after motivational speaker and best-selling author Francis Kong.

KEY BENEFITS

The participant will gain:

-understanding in using Blue Ocean Strategy tools and frameworks as the blueprint behind the formulation of a brand's short-term strategies and future direction

-better awareness of perceiving oneself as a brand and employing strategies to accelerate career advancement but more importantly to creatively work with those who really matter.

Your company will gain:

-an appreciation of the revolutionary mindset that competition can indeed be made irrelevant with the creation of uncontested market space through the tools and frameworks embedded in Blue Ocean Marketing

-greater individual contribution brought about by tools, behavior and attitude that create results, based on principles of intrapreneurship rooted on building lives as brands

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Volvo Cars focuses. . .

From page B2-1

extraction and fuel production to distribution and use in the car. For instance, if a lot of electricity produced by fossil fuels is needed to create a renewable fuel, this will not be CO_2-efficient from a holistic perspective even if the emissions from the car's tailpipe are minimal," Fredrik Arp pointed out.

Holistic approach

The holistic view that Volvo Cars applies to driveline technology is based on three cornerstones:

- **To innovate.** Continuous efficiency improvements to today's gasoline- and diesel-powered cars are taking place in parallel with intensive work on new hybrid technology.
- **To cooperate.** Coordination with customers, politicians, organizations and other companies is a precondition for sustainable transport. Volvo Cars is determined to influence initiatives and decisions that are taken outside the car industry.
- **To deliver.** Customers in a growing number of European markets will soon have access to one of the automotive world's broadest Flexifuel ranges: five models, three different bioethanol engines.

"At present, bioethanol is the most attractive alternative when you consider availability, environmental effectiveness and cost-efficiency. However, what is regarded as most favorable today may be refined or converted to an even more sustainable solution tomorrow. As an innovative knowledge-based company, we are an active and constructive partner in the global and regional forums that evaluate emerging alternatives for the future. It is our responsibility to deliver the car technology that makes transitions possible," Arp said.

Systematization

Volvo Cars uses a three-phase system for the development of more efficient drivelines: innovation, test and delivery.

Hybrid solutions such as the Volvo ReCharge Concept being unveiled in Frankfurt are one example of the technologies that are still at the innovation stage.

Thanks to constructive cooperation between the car industry and several EU member states, E85-powered Flexifuel cars have definitely moved from the testing stage to delivery. Volvo Cars will soon have Flexifuel models available on most European markets.

This systematic approach is being applied to all enhanced or alternative drivelines within the Volvo Cars development program. The aim is to stimulate and promote the viability of technological solutions that are sustainable for the environment and for society in general—as well as being cost-effective.

The low-cost global challenge

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

GUESS WHO SAID THIS? "IT IS EASY to make a cheap vehicle. To make a cheap vehicle that is robust and reliable and to turn a profit, that's the future of the auto industry."

Renault-Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn said that last Sept. 1 in Tangiers where he signed an agreement with the Moroccan Prime Minister to build in that North African port city a $1.36 billion automotive plant designed to feed low-cost cars and trucks to the showrooms of Europe, Asia and North America. Like other manufacturers in the global mass-market car business, Mr. Ghosn is moving fast into the no-frills segment to counter competition from China and India, which are mimicking the way Japan and South Korea built up strong auto industries by focusing first on low-cost cars and then progressing to their export.

BRIC

Although many Chinese and Indian vehicles don't meet Western safety and emission standards, they challenge efforts by established US, European, Japanese and Korean carmakers to win new customers in the fast-growing markets of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China), South Africa, Eastern Europe and other Asian countries where safety, comfort and horsepower don't matter as much as in the West. The auto research firm Global Insight predicts that by 2012, Chinese sales of light vehicles—cars, trucks and vans that weigh less than six tons—will soar by 50.6 percent to 12 million.

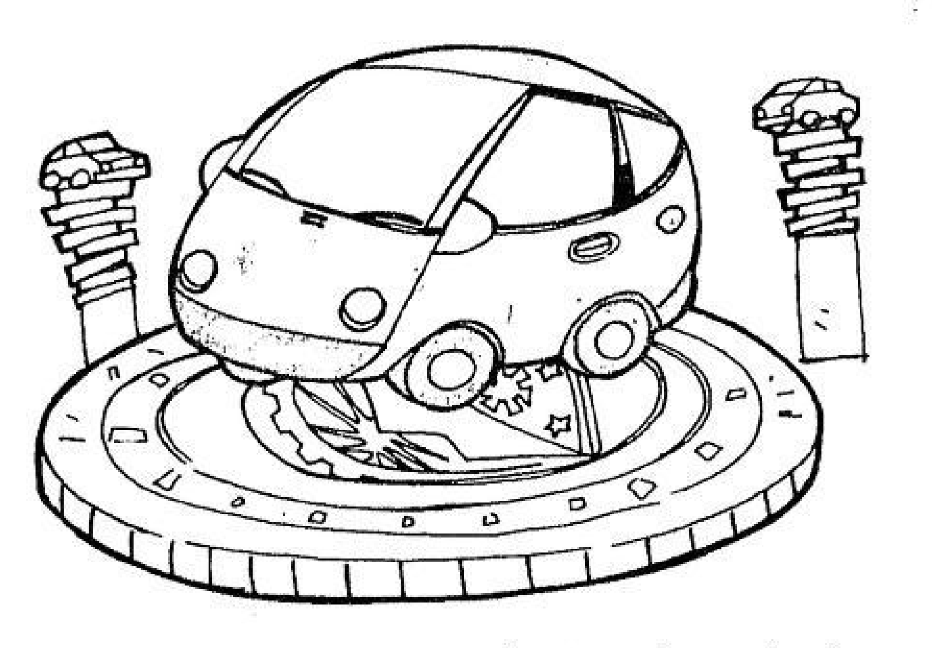
The auto titans are scrambling to expand in China, where the overall vehicle market grew 25 percent to 7.23 million units in 2006 while sales in North America, Europe and Japan dragged due to high fuel prices. Foreign carmakers sell both mass-market and luxury cars to meet the demand of both budget-conscious middle-class drivers and China's newly rich upper class. If China maintains this pace, it is expected to surpass the United States as the world's biggest car market by 2010.

After China, India is the second hottest market with 1.1 billion people poised to buy minivans, small trucks and pint-sized cars this year. India has a 216 million middle-class population eager to snap up cars. In the year ending March 31, passenger car sales in India climbed 21 percent to 1.38 million and may top 2 million vehicles by 2010. About two-thirds of vehicle sales in India are low-budget subcompacts.

Mature

By taking advantage of inexpensive home-market labor and technology imported from Western partners and suppliers, Chinese and Indian car manufacturers stand to rapidly improve their products and could soon begin to attack mature markets. Just last week, BMW filed a lawsuit in Munich to prohibit the sale in Germany of the Shuanghuan CEO, a brazen Chinese imitation of the BMW X5. Shuanghuan defiantly displayed the CEO at the Frankfurt Motor Show, stealing the spotlight from world-famous German brands.

Copying is the price of doing business in China as alliances between Chinese and Western automakers expand. General Motors and Honda (which produces the Fit/Jazz in China for export to Europe) have sued Chinese carmakers for copying their designs but got little relief from Chinese courts. This did not deter GM from announcing that it will double production capacity with its joint-venture partner Shanghai Automotive Industries Corp. by 2010 while slashing 1,400 jobs in Belgium. GM will also ramp up production by 50 percent at Shanghai-GM-Walung, a separate venture that produces mini-vehicles such as subcompact vans, more units of which were sold in China last year than GM's Saturn or Buick vehicles in the United States.



Hub

GM CEO Rick Wagoner, in New Delhi last April to launch GM's first small car in India, said that India could become a production hub for GM to export cars worldwide. GM is banking on growth in China and India to offset the impact of declining sales in the mature markets of the West while at the same time to help fend off Toyota's challenge to GM's six-decade reign as the world's No. 1 carmaker.

But Toyota isn't sitting still either. "New markets outside Japan, the United States and Europe are the key to future success," said Katsuaki Watanabe, the CEO of Japan's largest carmaker as Toyota announced earlier this month an annual sales target of 10.4 million vehicles worldwide by 2009. Toyota plans to reach its target not only by expanding market share in the United States but also by boosting sales by as much as 50 percent in the BRIC countries.

Fastest growing

Although GM entered China years earlier and enjoys a market share of about 11 percent there, Toyota is now one of the fastest growing brands and expects sales to reach 430,000 vehicles this year. By 2010, Toyota forecasts sales of more than one million vehicles in China, grabbing 10 percent of the Chinese market. In India, Toyota aims to increase sales to 200,000 vehicles by 2010 and also develop a new low-cost car to compete with Nissan's projected $2,500 car for the Indian market.

Last July, Chrysler and China's Chery Automobile Co. signed a deal whereby Chery will build small, inexpensive cars under the Dodge brand for export initially to Latin America and Eastern Europe. Chrysler's decision to outsource the manufacturing of some small car models reflects a new trend for global automakers who are struggling to trim costs and cope with mounting competition. Being able to produce low-cost small cars is essential for the big companies' success as they increasingly turn to the developing world for growth.

Torn

At the same time, they have to continue serving their established customers in the West. Torn between producing sporty, technically sophisticated models for the mature markets of the West and small, no-frills budget cars for the fast-growing emerging markets, the major carmakers have to stretch their budgets and get creative as investments in new factories can cost billions.

Meanwhile, the progress of India's Tata Motors in developing the world's cheapest car is being watched by Toyota, Nissan, GM and Ford, which are developing or have launched cheap cars in the BRIC markets. Challenging Tata, Renault-Nissan is working on a cheaper (around $2,500) variant of the Logan, a low-cost ($6,000) small car launched in Romania in September 2004 that to everyone's surprise became a marketing success. Renault-Nissan has a new joint venture with Mahindra & Mahindra, India's largest maker of jeeps and tractors, for a $908 million factory that will produce mostly budget-compact vehicles like the Logan.

As Mr. Ghosn said last week in Frankfurt, "The markets are growing in the emerging countries. If you don't go there, you can forget about having any sustainable hope for the future."

(With reports from WSJ, IHT, Bloomberg News and the Straits Times)

ISUZU
Roadtrip
FLAG-OFF
21-26 of AUGUST 2007
Shell
Diesoline Ultra
Can YOU Go the DISTANCE?

IPC president Keiji Takeda (right) and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. country chair Ed Chua leads the ceremonial flag-off at the Shell station in Nagtahan, Manila.

Enjoying RP sights using . . .

From page B2-4

world driving conditions," Takeda explained.

Aside from Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., which provided the fuel, IPC also partnered with Star Communications Holdings Corp., Oceanic Shipping Corp. and Winterpine Marketing Corp.

This year's version covered six regions, four islands and two ro-ro (roll on-roll off) trips. Each lap winner won a special prize.

"But more importantly, the Isuzu Challenge 2007 incorporated fun activities along the way. On each stopover we held side challenges that allowed the teams to win more special prizes, although the results did not affect the teams' overall mileage figures," Takeda added.

First lap

The event kicked off at Shell station in Nagtahan, Manila for the first lap that brought the participants to Camarines Sur and finally to Shell station in Pampang, Sorsogon (for a total of 640 km).

For the second lap the participants started at San Juanico Bridge and the MacArthur Shrine and ended at the Shell station in Liloan, Leyte—increasing the trip distance to 1,130 km.

For the third and last lap, the teams visited Isuzu Cagayan de Oro and Del Monte Golf Club before concluding the event at the Shell station on MacArthur Highway in Davao City.

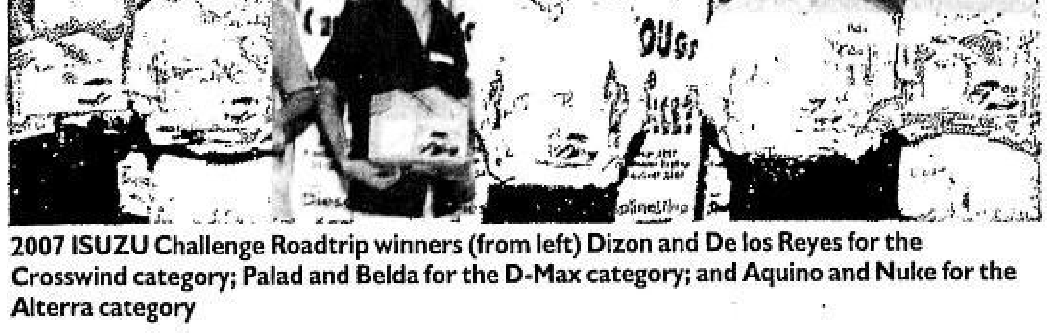
Winners

In the end it was the pair of Isuzu Challenge veterans Ron delos Reyes ("Auto Review" motoring TV show producer and host) and Lester Dizon (Motorcycle magazine editor) who topped the Crosswind category by achieving a 22.581 km per liter efficiency.

Businessmen Dennis Belda and Renato Palad Jr. topped the D-Max category with 24.172 km per liter while the pair of gardening enthusiast Dave Aquino and businessman Oscar Nuke, both former winners in the previous runs of the Isuzu Challenge, won the Alterra category with a similar 24.717 km per liter average.

For their achievements, the winning teams each received P100,000 in cash, a trophy and other giveaways. The first and second runners-up were also awarded P50,000 and P25,000, plus trophies and giveaways.

How did they do it? Dizon and Reyes said they were just conscious about their driving habits like knowing exactly when to shift to a higher gear without placing to much stress on their engine as well as driving at a steady speed, anticipating the stops (so hard braking may be avoided) and gradual acceleration.



2007 ISUZU Challenge Roadtrip winners (from left) Dizon and De los Reyes for the Crosswind category; Palad and Belda for the D-Max category; and Aquino and Nuke for the Alterra category

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Promo runs from September 1 to October 31, 2007. See posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4012, Series of 2007

Enjoying RP sights using few liters of diesel

By Charles E. Buban

TO BE FUEL EFFICIENT does not mean one has to drive too slow or endure scorching cabin temperatures.

In fact, the most fuel-efficient speed is quite fast already, between 75 and 90 kilometers per hour (kph) and there are other fuel-saving techniques—aside from turning the air-con off—that could be used while not taking away the pleasure in driving.

"Driving should be fun even if you want to save on fuel. With this year's edition of the Isuzu Challenge, we were again able to show that achieving fuel economy need not be boring," said Isuzu Philippines Corp. president Keiji Takeda.

The Isuzu Challenge, which began in 2002, has been visiting different places around the country, letting its participants enjoy the Philippine sights while trying to achieve consuming the least amount of fuel.

Road trip style

This time, IPC decided to make a road-trip style (last year was a champions edition) of activity that covered 1,764 kilometers starting from Luzon all the way to Mindanao using the diesel maker's current models—Alterra 4x2, D-Max 4x2 and Crosswind Sportivo (all were manual).

This year, we challenged our nine participating teams—three for each model—if they can go the distance. They completed three laps of strategic driving from Aug. 21 to 26," Takeda shared.

All participants were either Isuzu customers or members of the motoring media.

Stock vehicles

"Also, IPC provided all the stock vehicles used in the contest to guarantee parity not to mention that the teams were made to drive with the air-conditioner on to simulate real-

ENJOYING/ B2-3

4Diesoline Ultra
Can YOU Go The DISTANCE?

WHILE ATTEMPTING to achieve the least amount of diesel fuel consumed, the participants crossed seas enjoying the sights at the same time.

HYUNDAI - SETTING THE QUALITY BENCHMARK

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif., In 2000, when Hyundai announced major reforms aimed at significantly boosting the quality of its vehicles, the company's goal was to become one of the world's highest quality automakers. To achieve this, a worldwide quality initiative was launched, focusing on three key areas of quality leadership: intelligent ergonomic engineering, obsessive customer focus and acceptance of the need for continuous change. It is the embodiment of this quality initiative that has fueled Hyundai's significant improvements in vehicle quality over the past several years, as well as its tremendous sales growth worldwide.

Hyundai's strategic focus on quality, backed by more than 900 Hyundai quality-dedicated engineers, is now integrated throughout all phases of vehicle development - research, design, engineering, production, distribution, customer delivery and beyond. This quality leadership initiative is spearheaded by Hyundai Motor Company's Quality Department in Korea, with coordination and continual cross-functional interaction with its many other established quality teams throughout the world.

Quality and the North American Market

For vehicles destined for the North American market, implementation of Hyundai's quality initiative has meant significant input from and involvement by dedicated quality experts at Hyundai Motor America (HMA); Hyundai North American Quality Center (NAQC) in Chino, California; Hyundai Automotive Technical Center (HATCI) in Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Hyundai Motor Manufacturing of America (HMMA) in Montgomery, Alabama. Working together, these entities have established a system of quality procedures to assure all Hyundai vehicles meet the highest standards that American consumers have come to expect - and demand - when purchasing a new vehicle.

During the design phase, HMA, HATCI, NAQC and HMMA meet regularly with Hyundai's Quality and Research and Development Departments in Korea to review what is termed "the voice of the consumer" - extensive research, market analysis and feedback data from vehicle owners and prospective buyers. These cross-functional information sharing and intensive problem solving sessions continue throughout the engineering, development and production stages, so potential problems or situations that might impact vehicle quality can be immediately identified and addressed. Sometimes these sessions uncover potential problems that require unexpected changes or part modifications. These "on the fly" changes, though not purposely planned at the outset of the design and engineering phase, are now embraced as a necessary step of a much more dynamic and flexible development process that expects - and immediately addresses - necessary changes to assure quality is never compromised.

Once early Hyundai prototype vehicles are produced, they are rigorously tested and evaluated for quality in a number of areas, including exterior and interior fit and finish; performance under varying conditions; joint welding; paint quality; noise, vibration and harshness; electrical connections, among other items. Hyundai's testing facilities in Namyang, for example, include three wind testing tunnels, allowing simulation of wind speeds of 125 mph and recreation of rain, sleet and snow, to test inclement weather effects on vehicles. Quality test teams at HMA, HATCI and NAQC put extensive miles on vehicles, run additional evaluations on Hyundai's test track in Fontana, California, and conduct hot and cold weather tests in the Mojave Desert and International Falls Minnesota, locations known for their extreme temperatures. Test results and accompanying data are then relayed to Hyundai Motor Company's Quality Department, so that any needed vehicle modifications and changes can be immediately addressed.

Testing doesn't end, however, with prototype vehicles. Once production begins, the cross-functional, data-driven feedback loop and interaction continues, as quality teams review and incorporate additional changes and other improvements based on feedback from U.S.-based marketing focus groups, media preview tests, early consumer reactions and other data.

Quality assurance is also incorporated throughout the vehicle delivery process. For vehicles produced in Korea, quality audits are initiated on the assembly line and continued at the Port in Ulsan and through the ports of entry into the U.S. In Alabama, all vehicles off the assembly line receive an immediate inspection by HMMA's Quality Assurance Department, as well as a test track evaluation. Another quality inspection is also conducted by Hyundai's Alabama shipping processors. Once vehicles are in transit to dealerships via truck or rail, dealers have been trained to initiate another 51-point inspection on vehicles received, assuring that no quality issues have occurred during vehicle transit. After customers purchase a Hyundai vehicle, Hyundai Motor America representatives contact them within several days to inquire about their dealership experience, as well as to discuss any problems or quality issues they may have with their vehicle. Again, this information is looped back to all Hyundai entities involved in the quality assurance process for immediate review and evaluation.

Hyundai Quality - Backed by America's Best Warranty

Given this rigorous and complete quality program means that Hyundai can confidently back the quality and craftsmanship of every vehicle in its lineup the Hyundai Advantage, America's Best Warranty. Provided on every new vehicle since the 1999 model year and currently covering more than 2.75 million vehicles nationwide. The Hyundai Advantage - an industry first when introduced - is now further complimented by another industry first, the new Hyundai Certified Pre-Owned Limited Warranty. Introduced in May 2007, the pre-owned program boasts a 10-year/100,000 mile powertrain warranty on used vehicles dating back five model years that have less than 60,000 miles.

Hyundai Motor America

Hyundai Motor America, headquartered in Fountain Valley, Calif. is a subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Company of Korea. Hyundai cars and sport utility vehicles are distributed throughout the United States by Hyundai Motor America and are sold and serviced by more than 750 Hyundai dealerships nationwide.

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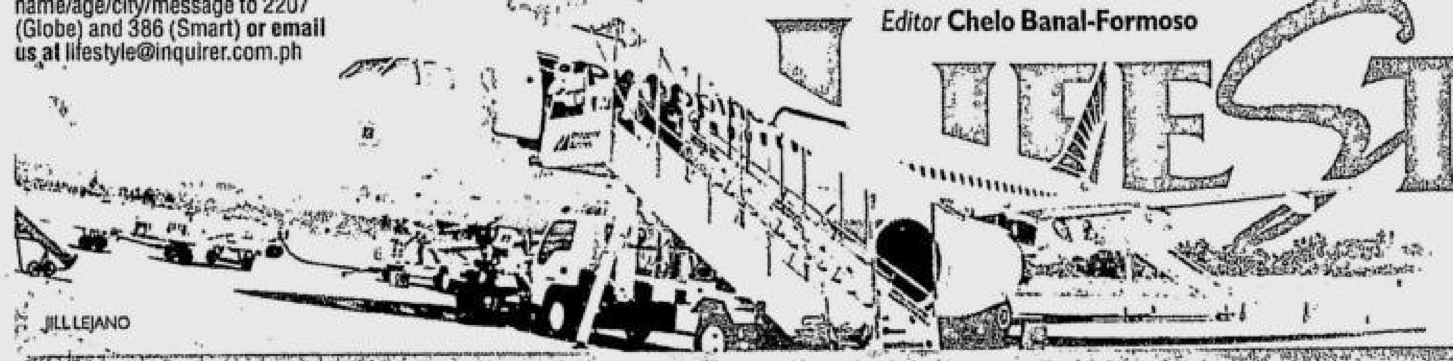

JILL LEJANO

2bU! goes to Cagayan de Oro

Samsung lives up to its former slogan 'Everyone's Invited' by bringing INQUIRER 2bU! to Cagayan de Oro, along with a group of lomographers from LomoManila. In these pages, we use words plus images from over 20 toy cameras to capture not just the craziness of the Great Samsung Sale but the fun fiesta and exciting secrets of the City of Golden Friendship. Enjoy!

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Ring in the fun!

The formula for an unforgettable trip? One colorful city, a group of lomographers, over 20 toy cameras and one undeniably great sale

By Pam Pastor

THEY WEREN'T KIDDING when they called it The Great Samsung Sale.

Inspired by shopping festivals in other countries, Samsung decided to hold the first ever Great Samsung Sale, and their chosen venue for the mobile madness was Cagayan de Oro.

"We are going down the market line. We believe in localization, in reaching out to our market," said Angie Limbaco, Samsung's brand and PR group head.

And what a way to reach out. With the help of Roger Chui, Samsung's dealer in Cagayan de Oro, the company managed to turn CDO into Samsung city from July 20 to September, coinciding with CDO's fiesta.

Branding power

Right from the start, on our way to the hotel from the airport, we were overwhelmed at Samsung's display of branding power. The Great Samsung Sale was being announced via countless billboards and posters pasted on jeepneys, tricyles, taxis, mobile trucks and what have you.

The sale reminders continued during lunch—with the signs on the table and the pins on the waiters' shirts.

After lunch, we took what we now think of as The Great Samsung Sale walk—from Robinsons to Limketkai Mall. Armed with some 20 toy cameras, lomographers Ronald Cruz, Jay Lara, Jill Lejano, Coco Pablo, Rollie Valenzuela and Ruby de Vera captured the scene, from stores bustling with activity and games being held in the middle of malls to the Ultra Mobile Nation setup in Robinsons, and finally to Samsung's concept shop, which was bursting with flyers and promo materials in different languages.

Apart from the huge discounts, there were many elements to The Great Samsung Sale, giving people more reasons to shell out their money for a dose of technology. Some purchases came with freebies and bonuses such as restaurant discounts, concert tickets and even Swiss knives.

There were Buy One Take One promos for mobile phones. Other promos invited users to try mobile phones for two days, allowing them to return the units if they find them unsatisfactory. Consumers were also given the chance to win Samsung TVs.

Surreal scene

We continued to feel Samsung's presence that evening, when we went to Divisoria Café to check out the bands. Samsung's support for the city's festivities was evident, what with the giant mobile phones making the scene even more surreal.

The next day, we met Noel Dajao, Samsung's branch manager for Cagayan de Oro at the Miss Kagay-an Tourism 2007 pageant, which Samsung also sponsored. Natasha Mills was crowned Miss Samsung that night.

Although we had been invited to Cagayan de Oro for The Great Samsung Sale, we were allowed to explore the city, too, to take in the sights and to taste local flavors, to push ourselves, to make memories that would last a very long time.

We left understanding why this giant brand seemed so enamored with Cagayan de Oro. The sale was great and the city was even greater.

Turn the page and start your own Cagayan de Oro adventure.

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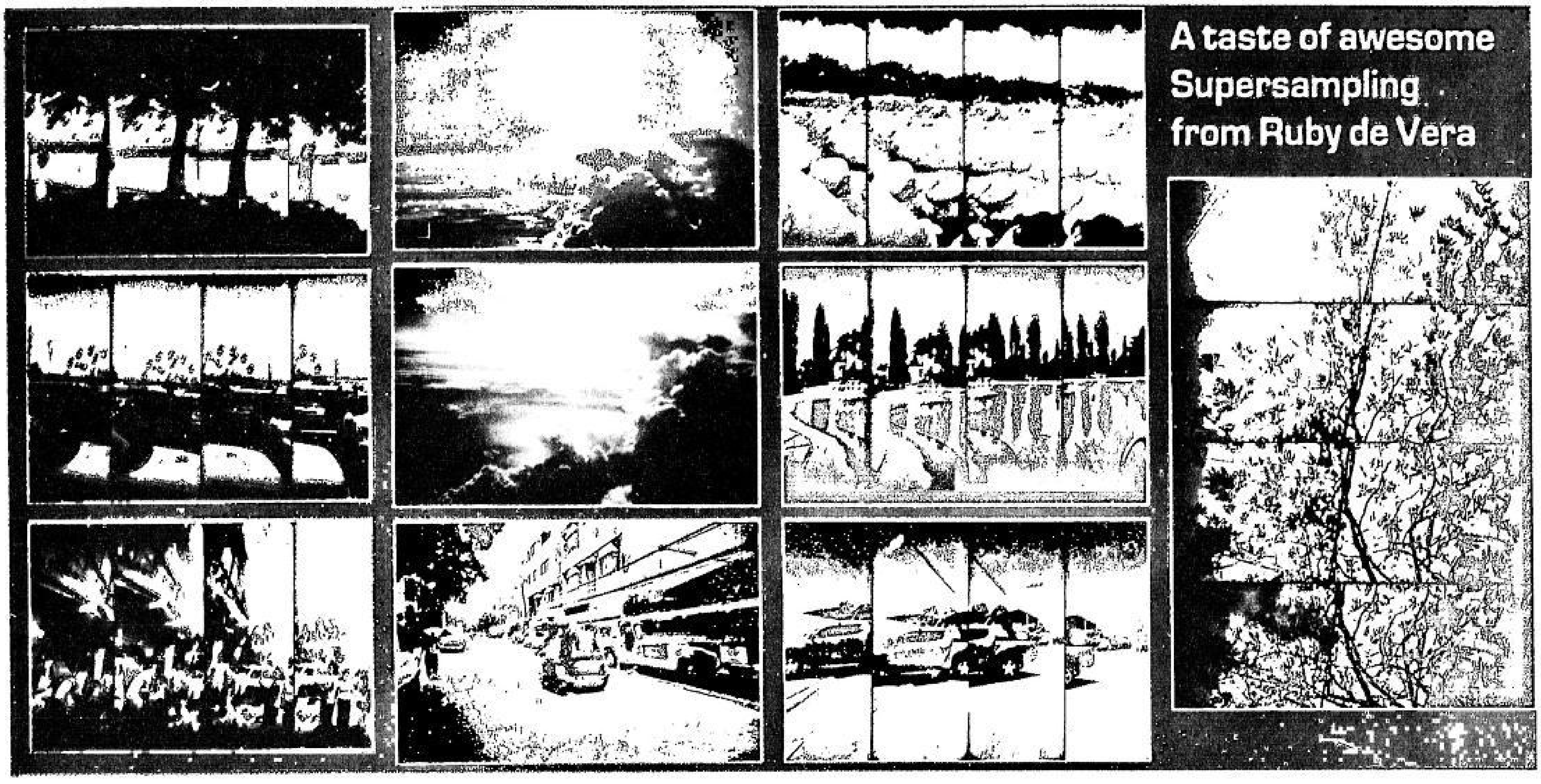
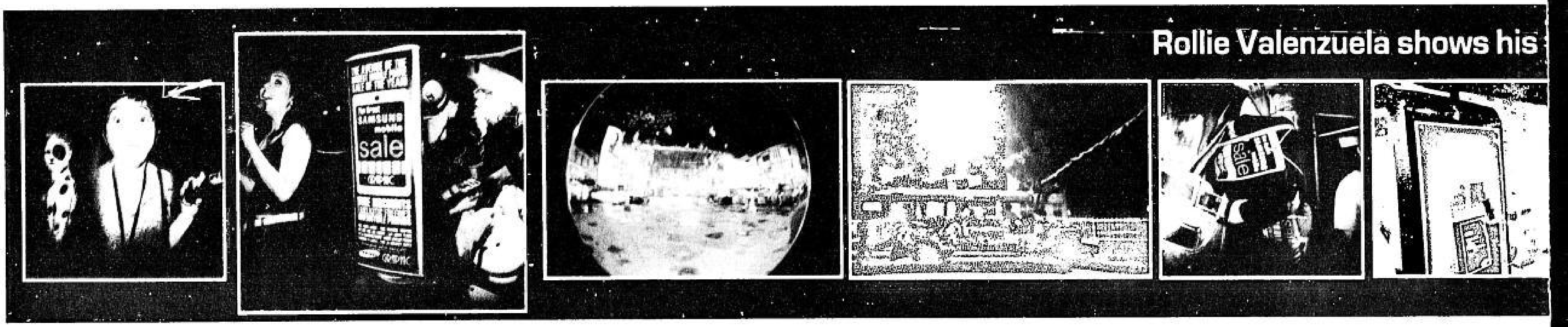
Ring in the fun!

A taste of awesome Supersampling from Ruby de Vera



Jill Lejano

Rollie Valenzuela shows his



GET some TLR love from Jay Lara

Beauty pageant, CDO-style

ALL eyes on the finalists; (below) Miss Samsung Natasha Mills

PHOTOS BY JILL LEJANO

THEY TAKE BEAUTY PAGEANTS SERIOUSLY.

No surprise there, as the Miss Kagay-an Tourism beauty pageant is one of the highlights of the Kagay-an Fiesta.

The people watching the pageant at the Atrium of Limketkai were so engrossed with what was happening onstage that when we accidentally blocked their view as we made our way to the front in an attempt to get better photos, people hissed angrily at us to sit down.

Each girl had her own cheering squad in the audience—different sections that cheered and hooted as their numbers were called.

Many awards were handed out, including the Miss Samsung Award which was given to Natasha Mills. At the end of the night, Diana Bagonoc was crowned Miss Kagay-an Tourism 2007. Diana will now serve as the city's Ambassador of Goodwill.

The question-and-answer portion was entertaining. The girls were asked to share how they would promote Cagayan de Oro as a tourist destination. Some came up with unique answers like increasing Cagayan's gross domestic product (huh?) and focusing on local caves' stalactites and stalagmites.

Sure, some of them stammered and stuttered, but they were all proud of their city—its places for white water rafting, the warmth of the locals and its reputation as a place for building friendships.

The girls agreed Cagayan de Oro was a place for making memories. We couldn't agree more. *PP*

JILL LEJANO

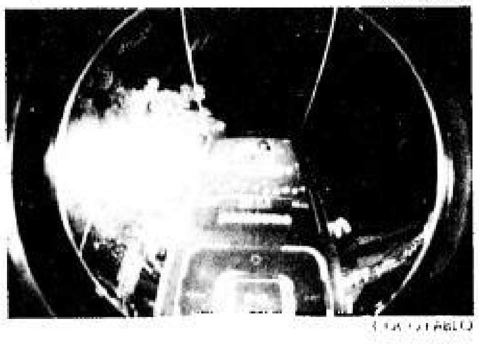
BIG dose of Samsung at Divisoria Café

RUBY DE VERA

SAMSUNG
mobile

JILL LEJANO

JILL LEJANO

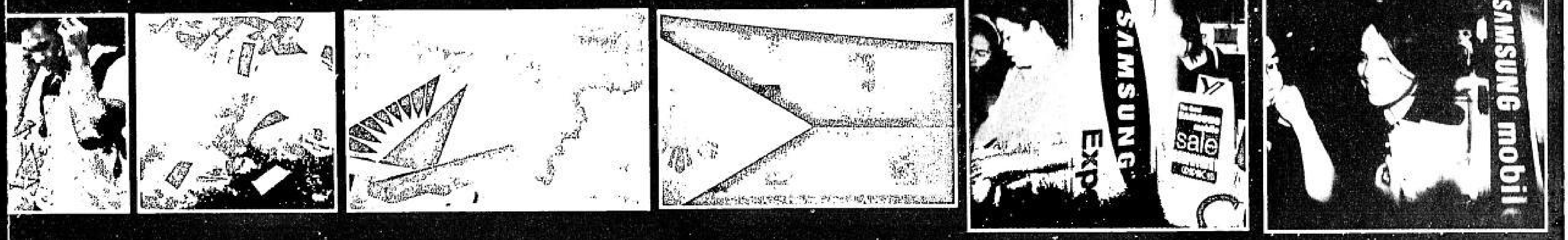


JAY LARA

ocks her LC-A+ and Vivitar

JEEPNEY STOP
SAMSUNG
The Great SAMSUNG mobile sale

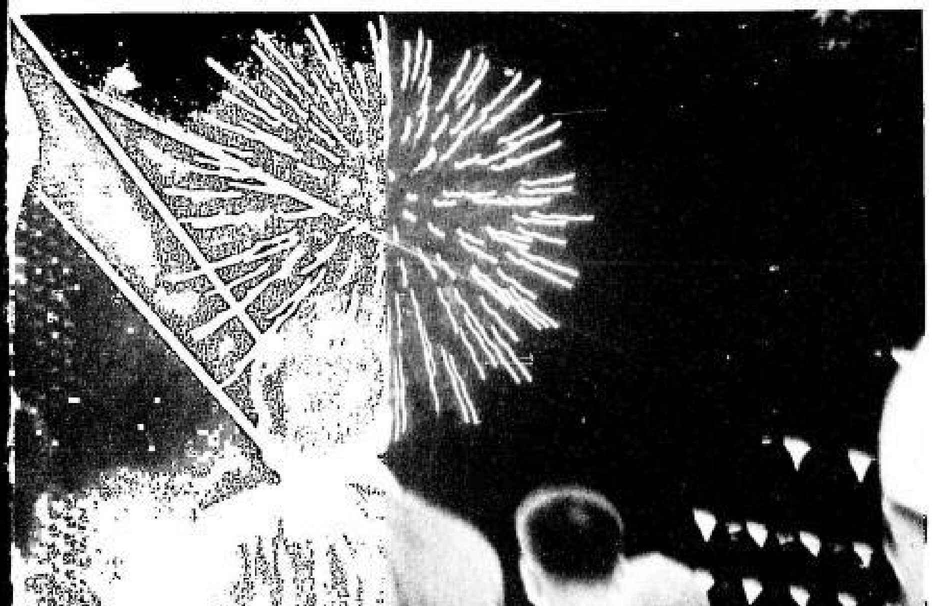
flair for Woca blending


SAMSUNG Exp
sale
SAMSUNG mobil

Ron Cruz wields his lomo cams with style and grace

sale
The Samsung Experience

A different Divisoria



FIREWORKS light the sky.

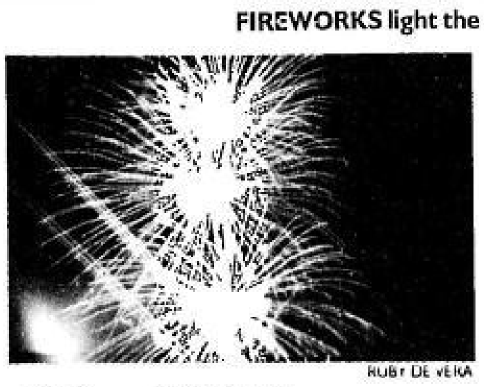
BUILT IN 1901, CAGAYAN DE Oro's Plaza Divisoria is a park intended to honor heroes like Andres Bonifacio and Dr. José Rizal.

On Friday and Saturday nights, people enjoy live music, beer and barbecue at the Night Café set up in the area. There's a night market, too, where people can score bargains after sunset.

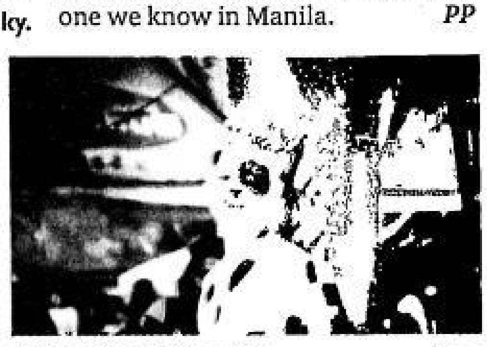
The place was a hive of activity the night we visited because of the town fiesta. There were huge stages that gave the local bands the chance to be heard, plus body paint-covered men, lovers sitting on plant boxes, and people eating, drinking and dancing.

Fireworks lit the night sky, a beautiful way to end an evening in a Divisoria that's a far cry from the one we know in Manila. *PP*

JAY LARA



RUBY DE VERA



CREATURE of the night

JILL LEJANO

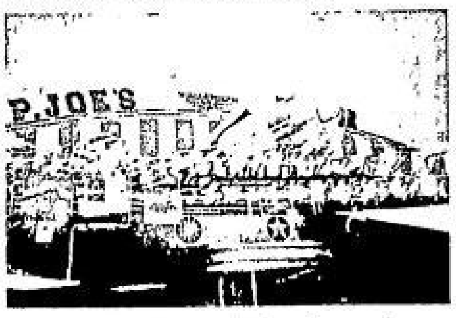
IT'S BACK!
ALL-OUT 7-ELEVEN BLOWOUT!
Magnolia
Healthtea Flavored Tea Drink
Low CALORIE
Apple
Magnolia
FREE
Magnolia Health Tea 500ml
ONLY AT

For every purchase of any 7-Eleven Rice Meals except Rice-in-a-Box.
Free item is valid from September 19 to 25, 2007 only and may be claimed at all 7-Eleven stores except in Nueva Ecija, Dagupan, Tarlac, Pangasinan & Baguio

Diner dash

THIS Tiger no longer flies. JILL LEJANO

P. JOE'S DINER IN Limketkai Center looks and feels like an authentic American diner, complete with a bar equipped with leather stools, cozy booths and vintage paraphernalia.



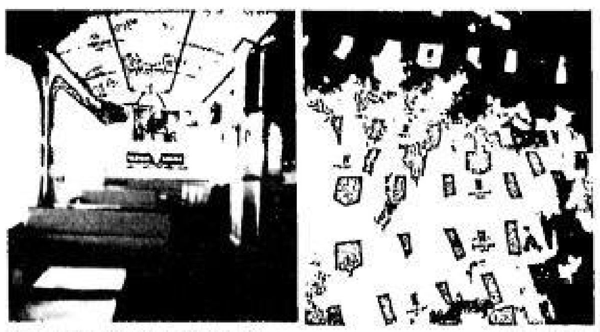
AMERICAN diner, CDO-style RUBY DE VERA

But not all diners have an old airplane sticking out of its façade like P. Joe's.

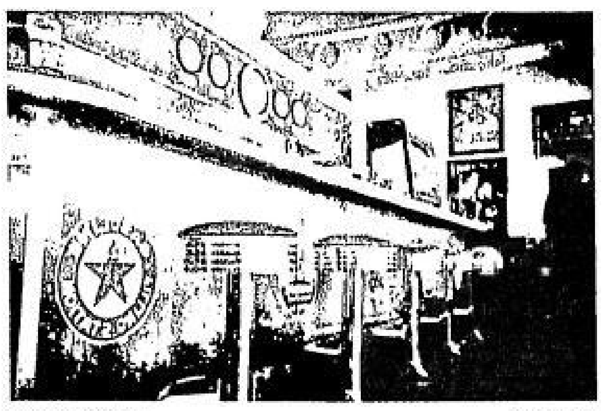
There was even a time when diners could actually go inside and explore the plane's interiors. While you can no longer do that nowadays, there are other things you can do at P. Joe's: enjoy the food, hang out with friends and take a ton of photos.

Try the baby-back ribs, juicy burgers, *lengua*, chicken fingers, mozzarella sticks and shakes. The food is good—good enough to help you forget your desire to find out what's inside that old airplane.

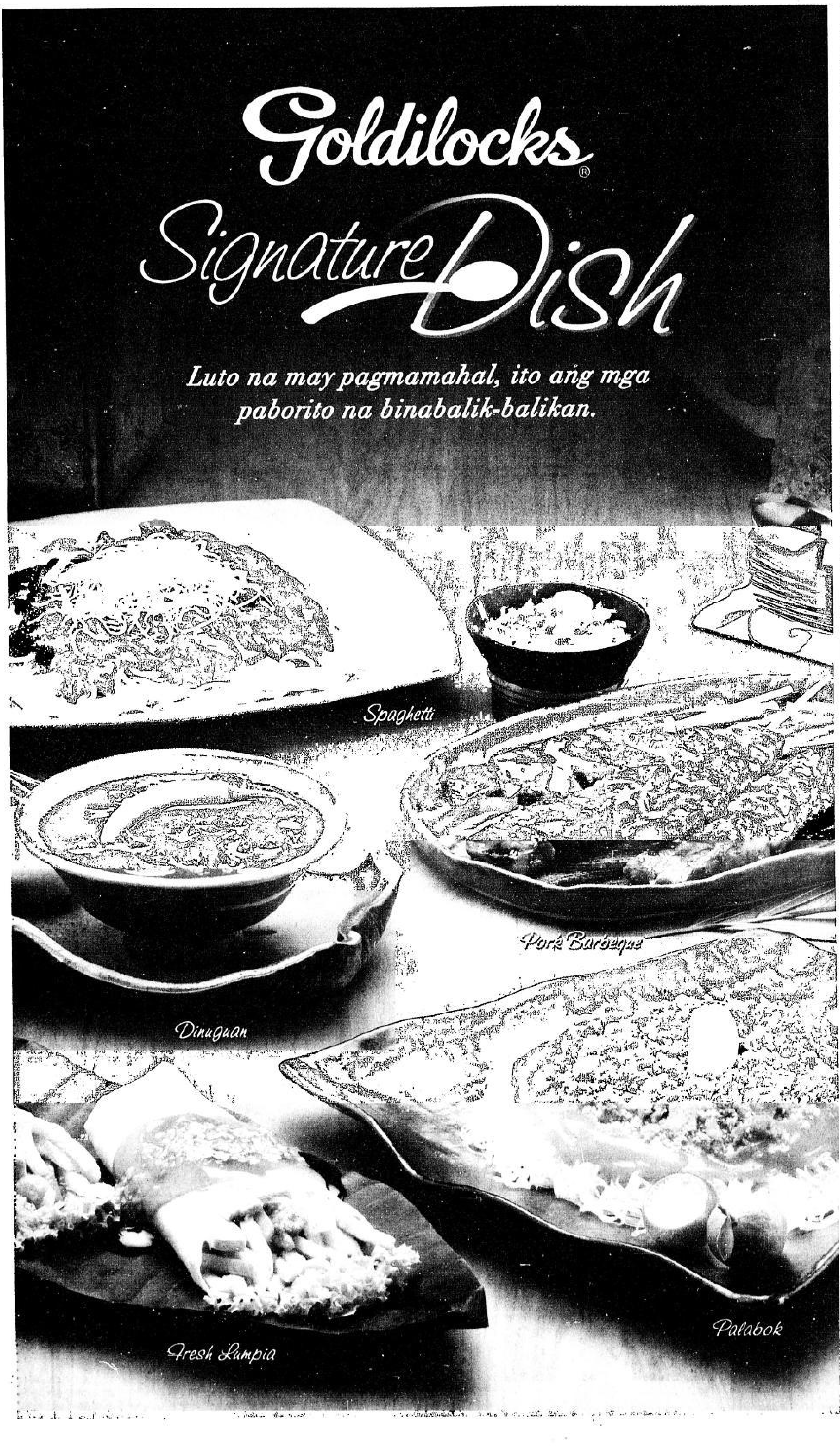
Visit P. Joe's Diner at Rosario Strip Limketkai Center Cagayan de Oro. Call 088-8591210.



GOOD times at P. Joe's JILL LEJANO



FREE seating RON CRUZ



PLANTATION stopover

Pineapple paradise

WE TOOK A SIDE TRIP TO PINEAPPLE paradise—the Del Monte Plantation in Bukidnon.

After an almost hour-long bumpy, rainy van ride, we were rewarded with a view of hectares and hectares of pineapples waiting to be picked.

People aren't kidding when they call Bukidnon "the food basket of Mindanao."

But the Del Monte Plantation is home to more than just pineapples and cattle. It also boasts of a world-class, 18-hole golf course and a clubhouse that serves thick steaks.

Pam Pastor

WAITING to be picked PHOTOS BY JAY LARA

Chicken overload

KAGAYANONS GET THEIR REGULAR dose of crisp chicken goodness from Sunburst, a food chain found all over Visayas and Mindanao. Even tourists are big fans. People who have visited Cagayan de Oro have extolled the virtues of eating at Sunburst in countless travel websites.

Diners are given the option of choosing their favorite chicken parts to be enjoyed with steamed rice. The Chix n Crackers is a must-try. The killer combination of fried chicken skin and potato chips is so good that people bring orders back to Manila in Ziploc bags. And the best part—they stay crisp even after reheating.

The potato salad is worth a try, too. Enjoy!

Pam Pastor

More Cagayan De Oro fun

A COLORFUL FIESTA, WHITE-WATER rafting, good food and even a road trip to a pineapple plantation aren't the only things you can enjoy in Cagayan de Oro.

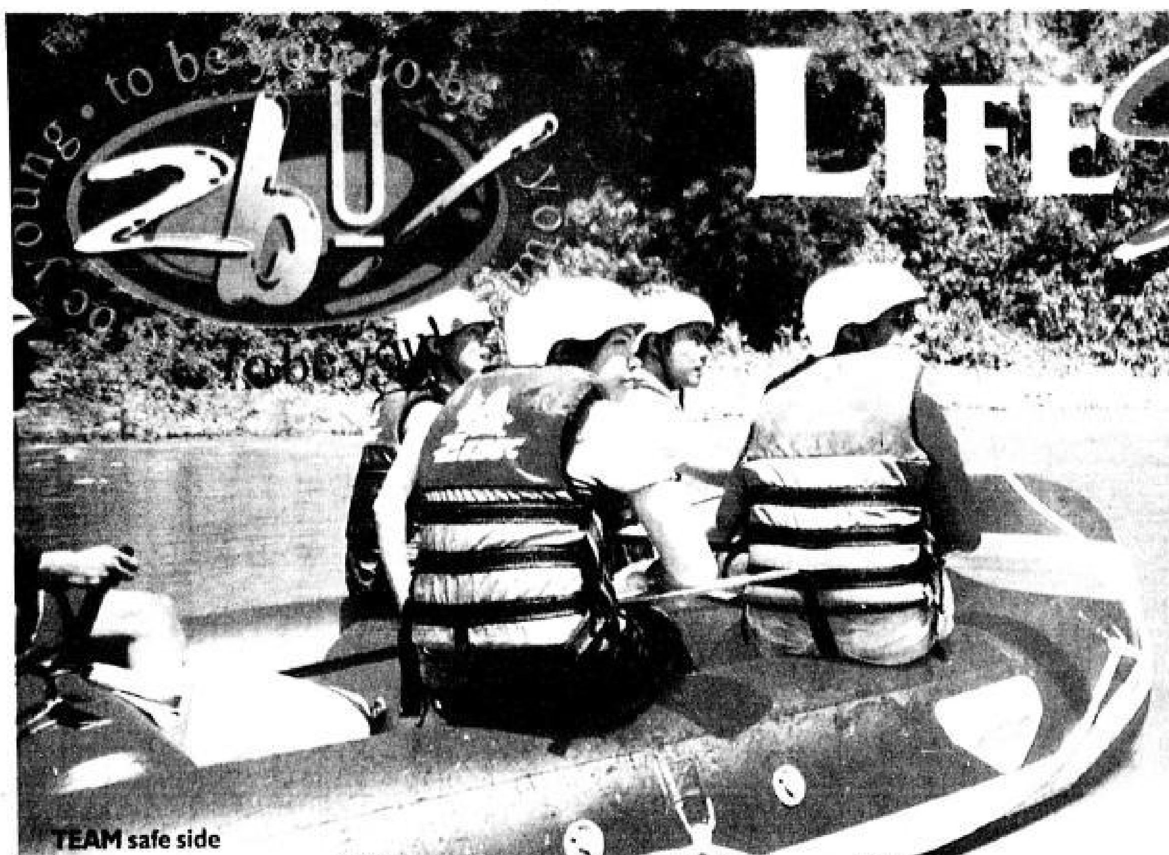
Here are some other possible adventures for tourists seeking all kinds of thrills in this lovely place:

- If you're extra-gutsy, try the canopy walk, rappel or give the zip line a shot at the Macahambus Adventure Park.
- Kayak at the Cagayan River.
- Enjoy the Catanico Falls.
- Go horseback riding and biking at the Mapawa Nature Park.
- Visit the St. Augustine Cathedral, the home of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro.
- Check out the Macahambus Cave, an underground cave that was the site of the famous Battle of Macahambus Hill between local militia and American soldiers during the war in 1900.

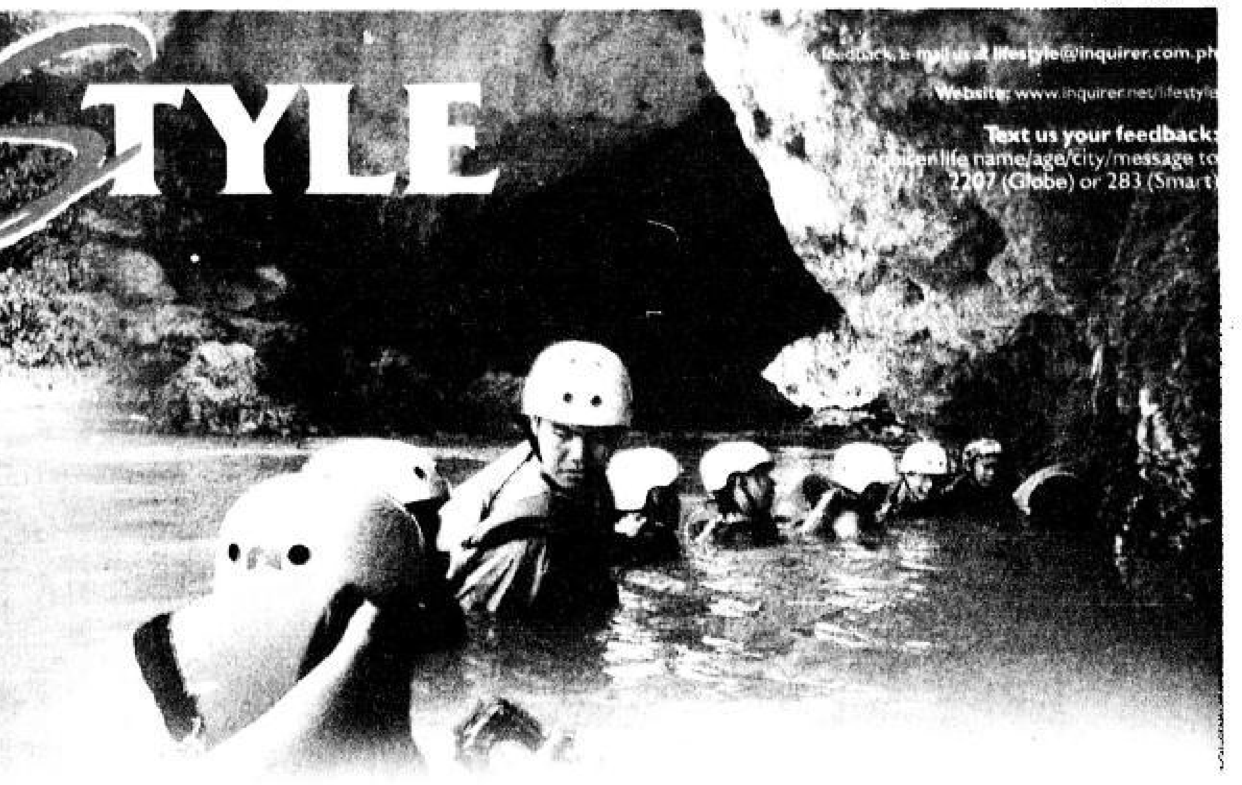
Pam Pastor

LIFESTYLE

feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



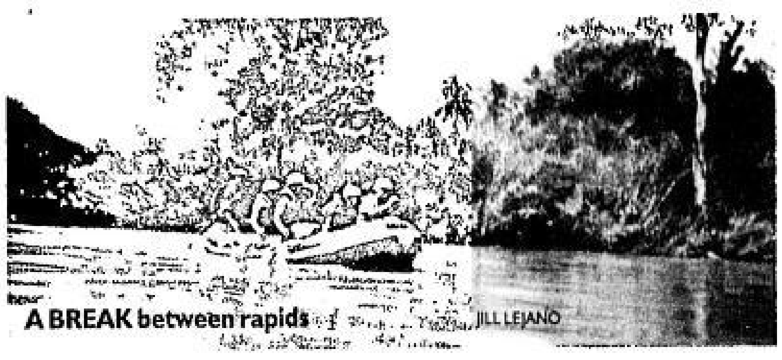
TEAM safe side



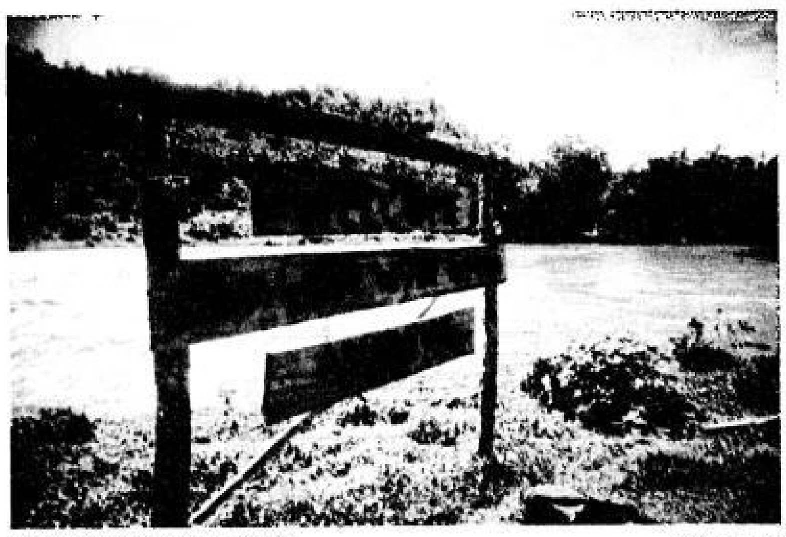
DON'T break the line.

PHOTOS BY JILL LEJANO

Shooting the rapids



A BREAK between rapids JILL LEJANO



ADVENTURE starts here. RUBY DE VERA

You keep your foot constantly locked to make sure you don't fall off the raft. Sure, the guide has taught you what to do in case you fall into the water—but you have no plans of giving that a shot

By Pam Pastor

THE ADVENTURE starts way before you hit the water.

When people start warning you about the dangers, when you hear about how hard you have to paddle, when you ask yourself if you're really ready to hit the rapids.

But you push those thoughts away and only start entertaining them again when you see the brightly colored jeepney pulling up in front of your hotel, with two big red rafts secured to its roof.

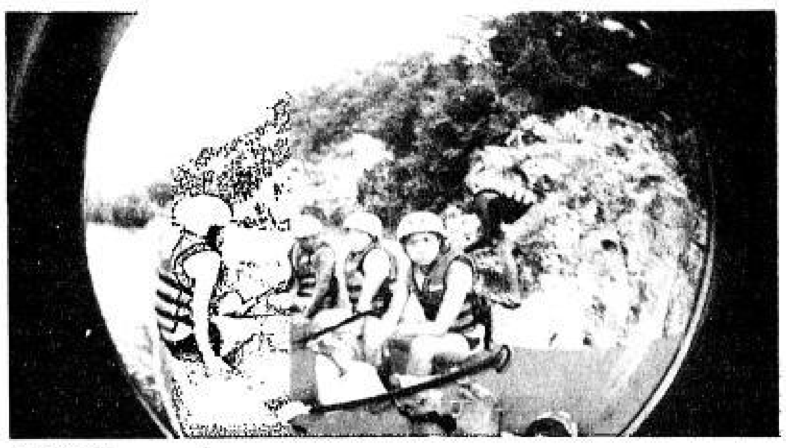
You wonder if you should bolt back into the hotel room and hide under the covers. But, instead, you hop aboard enthusiastically.

Long and bumpy

The ride to the river is long and bumpy and by the time you get there, you have forgotten about being nervous. There are a lot of things to be done—sunblock to be applied, life vest to be worn, helmet to be put on. Besides, your paddle is waiting.

The guides ask you to get into the water for a quick orientation. The river is ice-cold and you stifle a scream. The guide

SHOOTING/ D4



READY for more! ROLLIE VALENZUELA

TEAM extreme RUBY DE VERA

So far...
148 LBS.

Aiko Finally Reveals The Secret To Her Weight-Loss

She was one of Philippine cinema's favorite young sweethearts who eventually evolved into a more accomplished, mature actress – and then some. Actress. Mother. Public Official. Aiko Melendez has assumed many roles not only in front of the cameras, but also under the watchful eyes (and sometimes inevitable scrunity) of the public.

One of the visible "changes" in Aiko was her transformation from being naturally slim to being overweight. From a 28-inch waistline, she went up to a 37, something she didn't think would happen.

"I've been slim almost half of my life," Aiko shares. "I was athletic, I used to swim. My frame was really slim. I was even flat-chested before! I never thought I'd end up gaining weight."

How did she end up gaining all the excess weight? "I think it started with my pregnancy," Aiko recalls. *"Kasi* during my first pregnancy, I had this notion that I could eat anything I wanted because I was eating 'for two.' So I spoiled myself. And I ended up gaining a drastic amount of weight! Imagine, I even went up to a 37-inch waistline!"

Used to being slim, Aiko was unprepared for the emotional toll her weight gain would take on her. "I felt really bad," she remembers. "When I went to the mall, people would just come up to me and say, *'Aiko, anong nangyari? Bakit ang taba mo ná ngayon?'* and *'Ang ganda ng mukha mo kaya lang ang taba mo,'* which was pretty harsh. I really lost my self-confidence. I felt like a *losyang,* I couldn't even dress well. When you're fat, limited *ang* clothes *mo.* Aside from that, *Tito* Wyngard, my manager, told me I was losing a lot of opportunities work-wise. He said there were a lot of acting offers but they required me to lose weight first. That made me feel even worse."

She was desperate to lose the weight -- fast. However, this meant resorting to rash decisions in finding weight-loss solutions. "I tried every diet there is!" Aiko recalls. "South Beach, After 6, Atkins – you name it, I've tried it! But when I lost a bit of weight, I had a tendency to be lax. So I'd end up eating ang gaining weight again. I also tried diet pills, but I ended up getting hospitalized because of it. I felt *na parang nabibingi ako,* I was getting palpitations and I was becoming irritable. I also had problems with my blood circulation."

Eventually she thought she found a solution in liposuction. "I had liposuctions done in various parts of the body – my arms, my back, my legs, my tummy – basically everywhere. And yeah, you do lose the weight. But if you don't watch your diet or exercise and regain the weight again, it becomes double, even triple of what you lost before. What's more, I was told you can only have at least 3 lipo's in your lifetime. 'Cause it can affect your heart, your blood and the anesthesia used can even affect your memory! Plus when I gained weight again, I noticed *lumilipat yung taba* in different parts of the body. I wasn't proportioned."

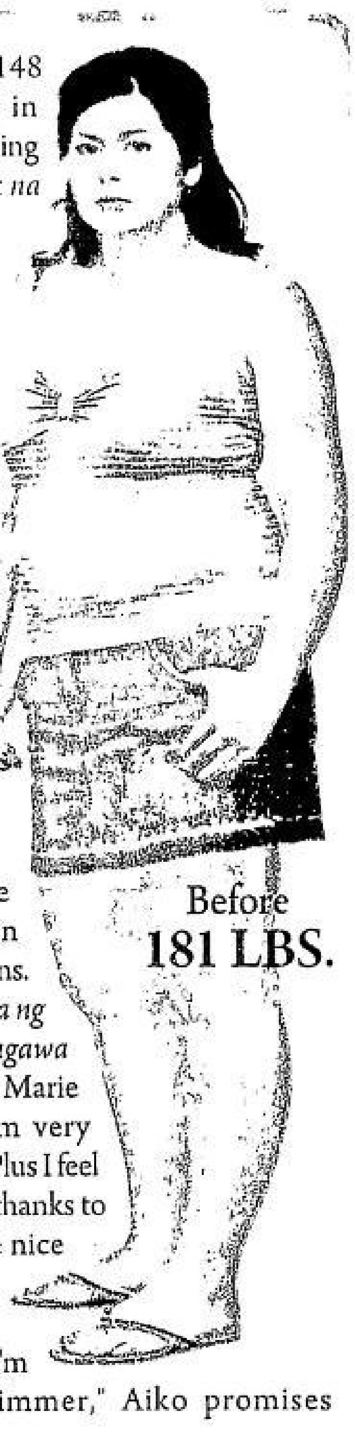
She became hopeful when she saw close friend Dawn Zulueta's transformation from gaining post-pregnancy weight to slimming down to a body even sexier than what she had prior to the weight gain! Dawn went from 146 to an amazing 126 lbs. thanks to religiously committing to Marie France treatments.

"Seeing how Marie France worked for Dawn inspired me," Aiko says. "Achieving my ideal weight has become very important. I was about 181 lbs. when I first came to Marie France. The treatments were working and I saw how I was slowly but surely losing the pounds. However, after a few months of treatment, I had to stop because of elections where I ran for Quezon City Councilor. The stress from that also made me lose a couple of pounds. Then after that, I went straight back to Marie France to continue my program. In two months, I lost 17 lbs.! As of now, I'm already 148 lbs.! I'm still a work in progress, though. I'm hoping to reach my ideal weight *na mga* 130 to 135 lbs."

Aiko has nothing but raves for the Marie France treatments: "With Marie France *kasi,* it's safe. There are no medications, no crazy dieting, no surgery. It's purely machines working on your body. You just lie down and relax! My top 3 favorite treatments are Endermologie, Velasmooth and Physique."

Friends who have seen her transformation have encouraging reactions. "They tell me, *'Ang laki na ng pinayat mo! Anong ginagawa mo?'* and I tell them I do Marie France treatments. I'm very pleased with the results. Plus I feel healthier too! So a huge thanks to Marie France for all the nice comments I've been getting. But I'm not done yet! Just you wait...I'm going to get even slimmer," Aiko promises confidently.

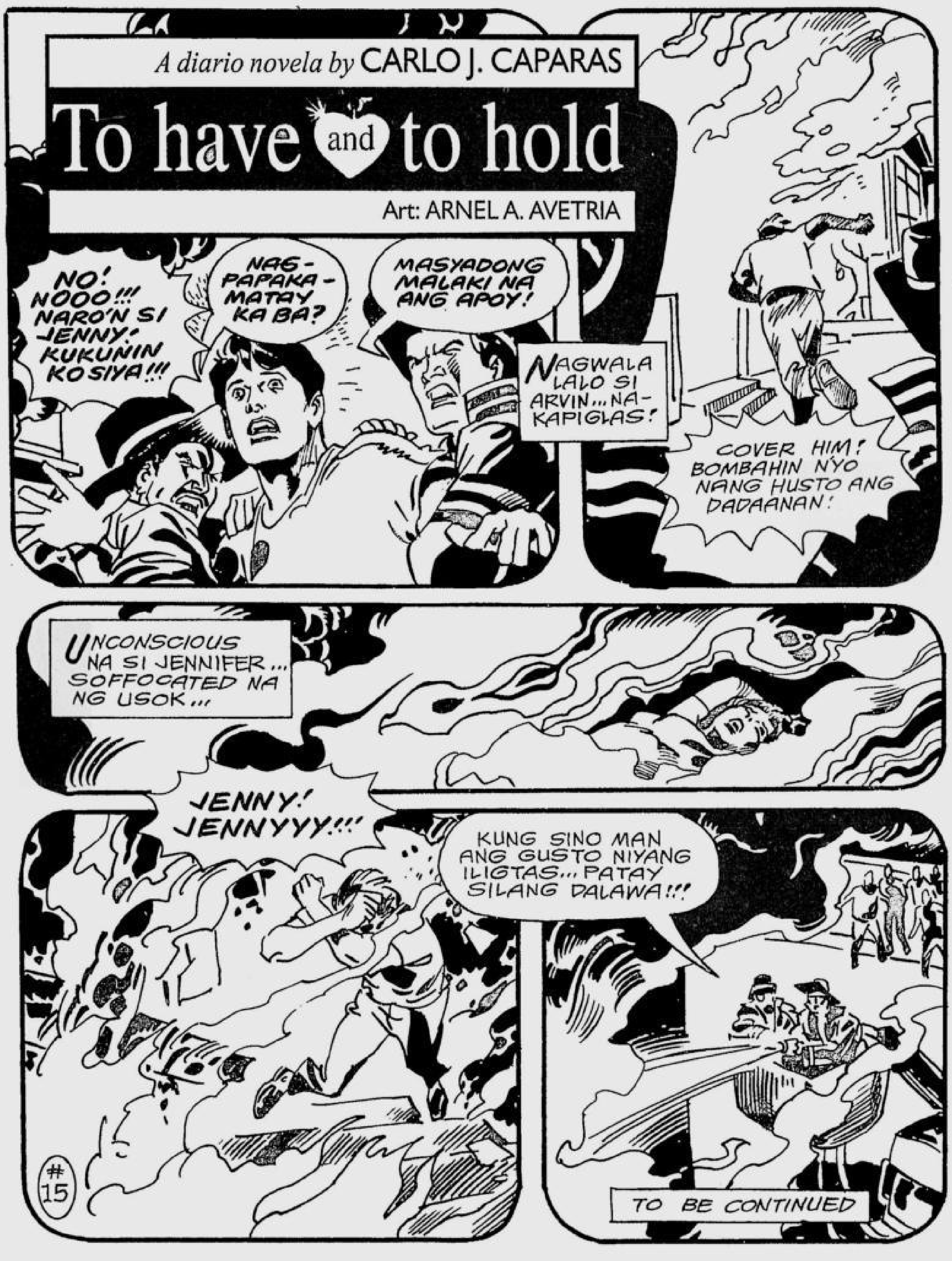
Like Aiko, you can also lose the excess weight the healthy, easy, non-surgical way. Call Marie France today at 894-BODY (2639); Cebu (032) 233-7637; Pampanga (045) 961-2981 for a free consultation.



A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


NO! NOOO!!! NARO'N SI JENNY. KUKUNIN KO SIYA!!!
NAG-PAPAKA-MATAY KA BA?
MASYADONG MALAKI NA ANG APOY!
NAGWALA LALO SI ARVIN... NA-KAPIGLAS!
COVER HIM! BOMBAHIN N'YO NANG HUSTO ANG DADAANAN!
UNCONSCIOUS NA SI JENNIFER... SOFFOCATED NA NG USOK...
JENNY! JENNYYY!!!
KUNG SINO MAN ANG GUSTO NIYANG ILIGTAS... PATAY SILANG DALAWA!!!
#15
TO BE CONTINUED

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Dixie school, familiarly
5 Ray of "Battle Cry"
9 Mongolian invader
14 Unrestricted
15 Diving bird
16 "Maria __"
17 Three rooms
20 Impudent
21 Shortstop Vizquel
22 Up to the task
23 Take five
25 Hefty slice
27 DDE's rival
28 West of Hollywood
30 QED word
32 Othello, e.g.
34 Early Peruvian
36 Think tank product
38 Caine film
41 Three rooms
44 Number of Roman hills
45 "Peter Pan" pirate
46 Latin I conjugation
47 Redact
49 Detonation
51 Harry's successor
52 Black goo
54 Lacquered metalware
56 Lofty
58 Ice cream brand
60 Disencumbers
62 Kingly
65 Three rooms
68 Make merry
69 Faint
70 Bruce or Laura
71 To the point
72 Pick out
73 Flip through

DOWN
1 Physiques, casually
2 Samoan port
3 Three rooms
4 Biscotti flavoring
5 Math branch
6 Gray wolf
7 Four rooms
8 Miami's center
9 Shatner novel "__ War"
10 __ mater
11 Four rooms
12 Old-womanish
13 Death rattles
18 AMEX rival
19 Composer Khachaturian
24 Windy City daily
26 Former U.K. airline
28 Shoot wide
29 Poker payment
31 Bustles
33 Earthenware pot
35 Breezed through
37 Scope of operation
39 Author Dinesen
40 Italian noble name
42 Work needles
43 Fender flaw
48 Deere rival
50 John Irving title hero
52 Religious belief
53 Fred's dancing sister
55 Favors one leg
57 Oodles
59 Concordes, familiarly
61 Flight school final
63 Gillette shaver
64 Swann or Redgrave
66 So-so grade
67 Bottom line

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15				■	16				
17				18					19					
20					■	21				■	22			
■	■	23			24	■	25			26	■	27		
28	29		■	30		31		■	32		33		■	■
34			35	■	36			37	■	38			39	40
41				42					43					
44					■	45				■	46			
■	■	47			48	■	49			50	■	51		
52	53		■	54		55		■	56		57		■	■
58			59	■	60			61	■	62			63	64
65				66					67					
68					■	69				■	70			
71					■	72				■	73			

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

9/19/07

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

F	I	D	E	L	■	O	S	I	E	R	■	D	O	N
E	V	E	N	T	■	C	O	N	G	A	■	E	N	E
Z	A	C	H	J	O	H	N	S	O	N	■	L	A	W
■	■	■	A	G	O	R	A	■	■	S	I	E	G	E
O	B	A	N	■	Z	E	R	O	M	O	S	T	E	L
R	E	S	C	U	E	■	■	R	U	M	M	E	R	S
A	N	T	E	S	■	S	P	I	N	■	■	■	■	■
■	Z	O	R	B	A	T	H	E	G	R	E	E	K	■
■	■	■	■	■	S	O	I	L	■	A	T	R	I	A
A	L	A	D	D	I	N	■	■	D	E	H	O	R	N
Z	E	N	O	O	F	E	L	E	A	■	I	S	I	S
A	V	I	S	O	■	■	A	U	D	I	O	■	■	■
L	E	M	■	Z	E	B	U	L	O	N	P	I	K	E
E	R	A	■	I	N	U	R	E	■	K	I	O	W	A
A	S	S	■	E	D	G	A	R	■	Y	A	C	H	T

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9/19/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		8	3	7	4			
			2			1		
2		9					7	
3	8				9			4
	5						6	
6	9	1						2
9	2		6				4	
8				4	1	3		
			7	5				

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/19

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Answer to previous puzzle

1	3	9	7	8	5	6	2	4
6	7	8	2	3	4	5	1	9
5	2	4	6	1	9	3	7	8
4	6	3	1	5	8	2	9	7
7	8	5	9	2	3	4	6	1
9	1	2	4	6	7	8	5	3
3	5	7	8	9	2	1	4	6
2	4	6	3	7	1	9	8	5
8	9	1	5	4	6	7	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★

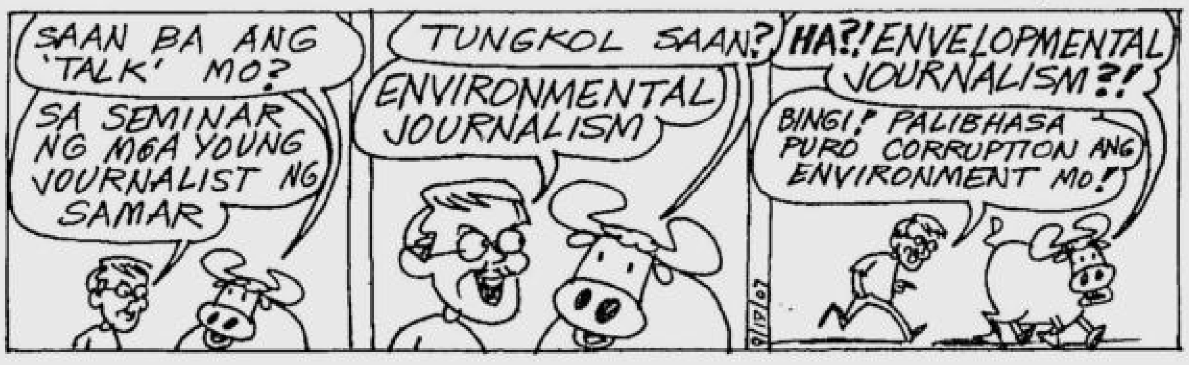
9/18

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

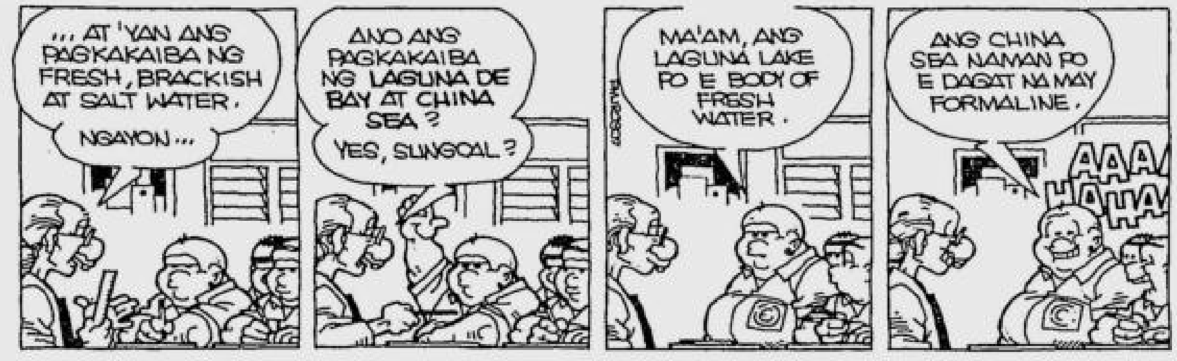
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SAAN BA ANG 'TALK' MO?
SA SEMINAR NG MGA YOUNG JOURNALIST NG SAMAR
TUNGKOL SAAN?
ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM
HA?! ENVELOPMENTAL JOURNALISM?!
BINGI! PALIBHASA PURO CORRUPTION ANG ENVIRONMENT MO!
9/17/07

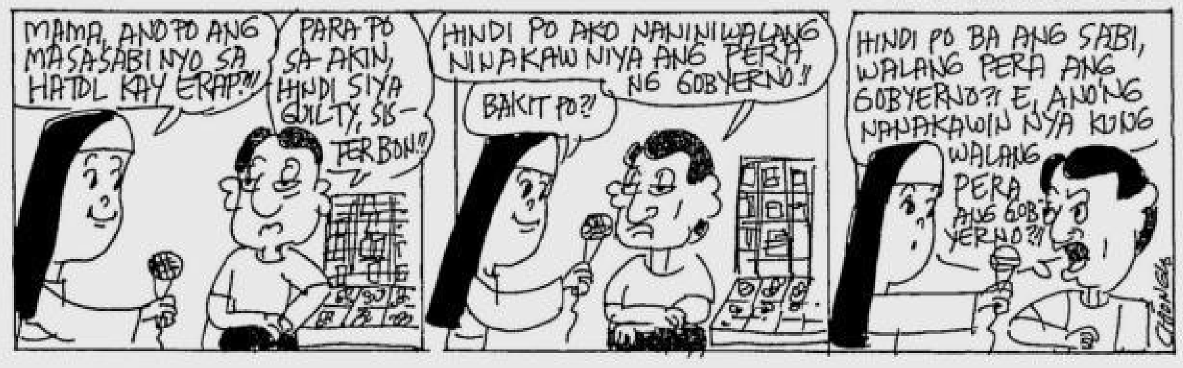
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


... AT 'YAN ANG PAGKAKAIBA NG FRESH, BRACKISH AT SALT WATER.
NGAYON...
ANO ANG PAGKAKAIBA NG LAGUNA DE BAY AT CHINA SEA?
YES, SUNGCAL?
MA'AM, ANG LAGUNA LAKE PO E BODY OF FRESH WATER.
ANG CHINA SEA NAMAN PO E DAGAT NA MAY FORMALINE.
AAA HAHA

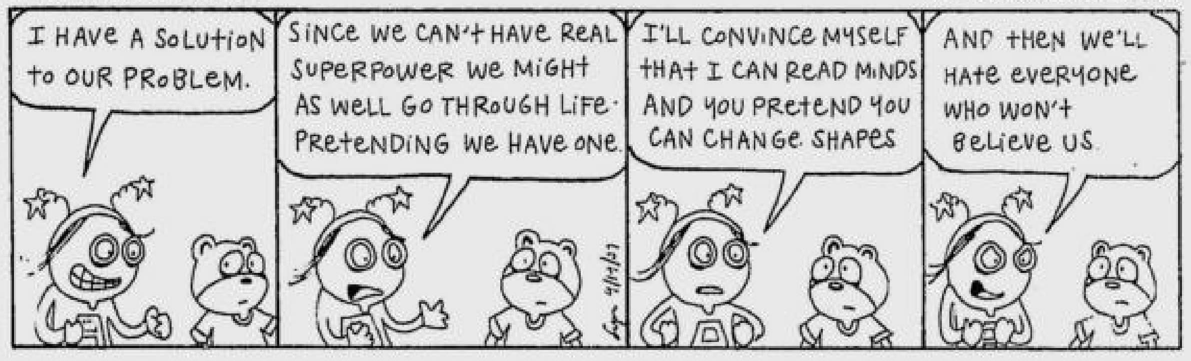
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAMA, ANO PO ANG MASASABI NYO SA HATOL KAY ERAP?!!
PARA PO SA AKIN, HINDI SIYA GUILTY, SIS-TERBON!!
HINDI PO AKO NANINIWALANG NINAKAW NIYA ANG PERA NG GOBYERNO!!
BAKIT PO?!
HINDI PO BA ANG SABI, WALANG PERA ANG GOBYERNO?! E, ANO'NG NANAKAWIN NYA KUNG WALANG PERA ANG GOBYERNO?!
CHIONGLO

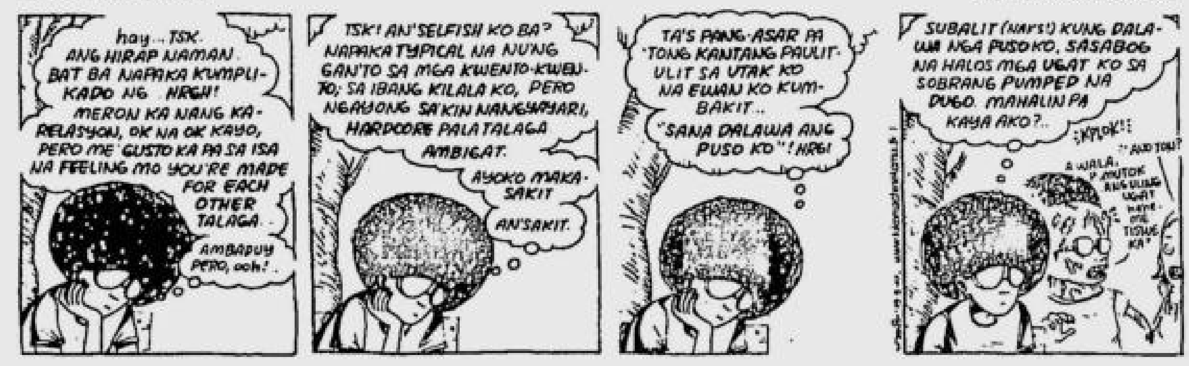
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I HAVE A SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM.
SINCE WE CAN'T HAVE REAL SUPERPOWER WE MIGHT AS WELL GO THROUGH LIFE PRETENDING WE HAVE ONE.
I'LL CONVINCE MYSELF THAT I CAN READ MINDS AND YOU PRETEND YOU CAN CHANGE SHAPES
AND THEN WE'LL HATE EVERYONE WHO WON'T BELIEVE US.

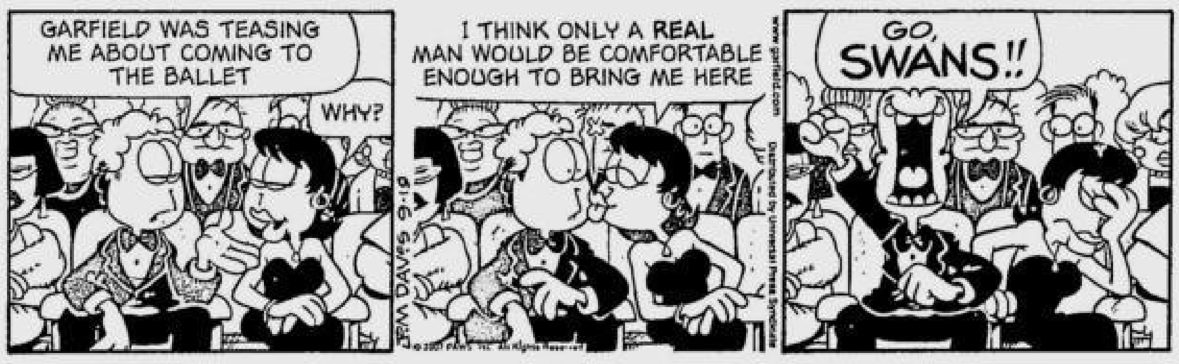
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hay... TSK. ANG HIRAP NAMAN. BAT BA NAPAKA KUMPLI-KADO NG NRGH! MERON KA NANG KA-RELASYON, OK NA OK KAYO, PERO ME GUSTO KA PA SA ISA NA FEELING MO YOU'RE MADE FOR EACH OTHER TALAGA.
AMBADUY PERO, ooh!
TSK! AN'SELFISH KO BA? NAPAKA TYPICAL NA NUNG GAN'TO SA MGA KWENTO-KWEN-TO; SA IBANG KILALA KO, PERO NGAYONG SA'KIN NANGYAYARI, HARDCORE PALA TALAGA AMBIGAT.
AYOKO MAKA-SAKIT
AN'SAKIT.
TA'S PANG-ASAR PA 'TONG KANTANG PAULIT-ULIT SA UTAK KO NA EWAN KO KUM-BAKIT... "SANA DALAWA ANG PUSO KO"! NRG!
SUBALIT (NAYS!) KUNG DALA-WA NGA PUSO KO, SASABOG NA HALOS MGA UGAT KO SA SOBRANG PUMPED NA DUGO. MAHALIN PA KAYA AKO?..
:KPLOK!:
"AND YOU?"
A WALA, PUTOK ANG UGAT

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


GARFIELD WAS TEASING ME ABOUT COMING TO THE BALLET
WHY?
I THINK ONLY A REAL MAN WOULD BE COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO BRING ME HERE
JIM DAVIS 9-19
www.garfield.com
GO, SWANS!!

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Although you're success-oriented and ambitious, you're also very sensitive. (You need to be reassured by loved ones.) Avoid boredom. Your mind is so fast and sharp that you need constant stimulation. In your later years, you will grow to be quite philosophical and wise. The year ahead is the beginning of a new cycle for you. Open any door. New avenues are promising!

Birthdate of: Trisha Yearwood, singer; Joan Lunden, TV journalist; Jeremy Irons, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a classic day for machinery or equipment to break down at work. Quite likely, you're facing situations that need to be repaired. (This could include your body!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Parents must be patient with children today. Romantic partners must be patient with each other. Power struggles can arise easily. (But what a waste of time.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be patient with parents and family members today. It's very easy to cross swords with someone. In particular, people are keen to tell you how to make improvements or how to do things better. (Oops.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Conflict with siblings and daily contacts is likely today. You think you know what's best, but others want to resist your suggestions. Because you're not a quitter, you won't let go!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Power struggles about money, cash flow or possibly even your earnings are likely today. Is this really the way to attain your objectives? Think about it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Be very careful today. Either you're on the warpath or somebody else is. If you get pushy about having your way, you'll only increase the opposition to you. Slow down; take it easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Research or a little bit of digging might reveal some juicy secrets today. Something will happen that gives you private information about something or someone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you encounter someone who seems to be coming on too heavy, just step aside. ("A lot of men didn't, and the lot of men died.")

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Power struggles with parents, bosses, the police and VIPs are hard to avoid today. People, especially people in authority, are quick to throw their weight around. Walk gently.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Avoid religious and political arguments today. People are very set in their views today and ready to defend their opinions and ideas. Be careful!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Disputes about shared property are likely today. Avoid these if you can. Something you're responsible for might break. Tread carefully and act responsibly.

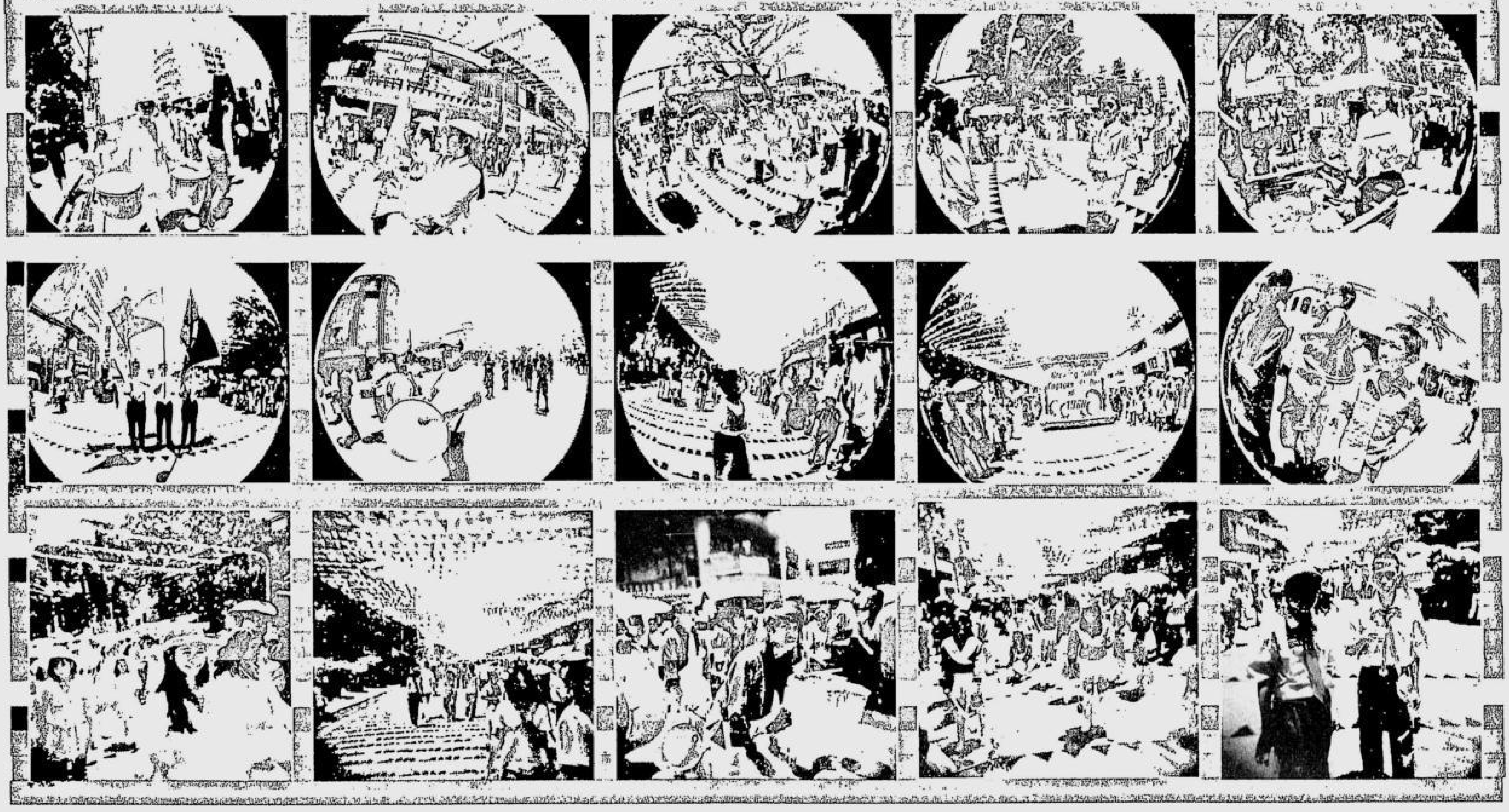
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be diplomatic with partners and close friends today. Power struggles can erupt easily. Since anger serves no purpose except to make everyone miserable, chill out.

Fiesta!

Text and photos by Ron Cruz , *2bU! Contributor*

GOLDEN FLOATS, MARCHING bands, beauty queens and an overload of color characterized Cagayan de Oro's recent fiesta. Locals cheered and visitors stood in awe as the city feted its heritage with one big street party, unmindful of the scorching midday sun.

More affectionately called The City of Golden Friendship, Cagayan de Oro's reputation for fun, fame and friendship is much deserved. Dubbed as "Beyond the Usual," the festival showcased that warmth and generous spirit to the hilt.



CAROUSEL captain
RON CRUZ

'Perya' invasion

RUBY DE VERA

WE HAD TIME TO KILL ON OUR first day in Cagayan de Oro, so we took a walk around the Limketkai area, past the street stalls. Soon, we found ourselves entering a local *perya*.

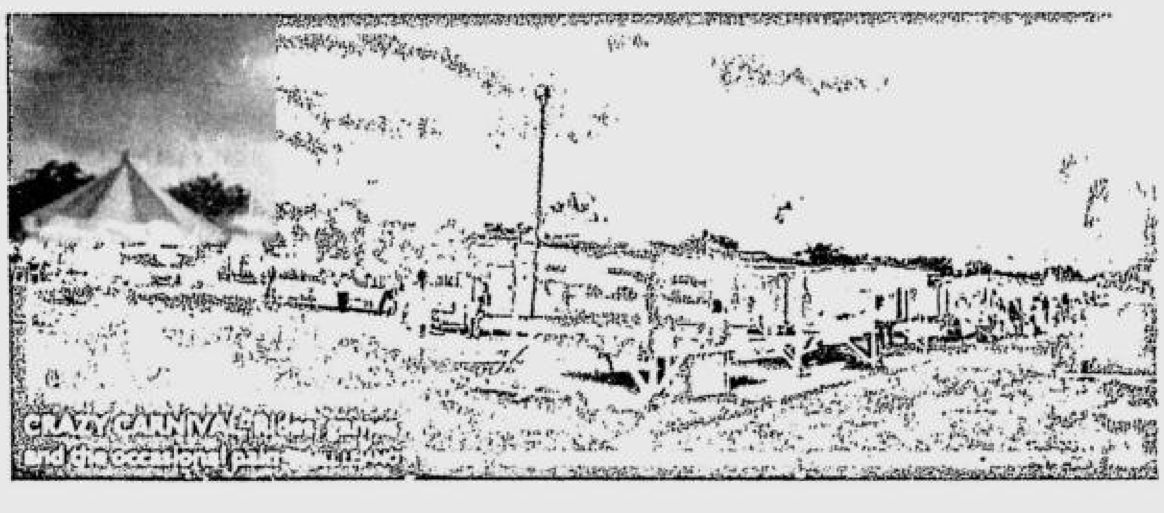
There were booths inviting customers to shoot plastic ducks or throw coins onto square-covered boards. There were a number of rides, including a carousel, a horror train and the octopus.

We defied our fear and clambered onto the roller coaster, which clattered its way across the rails. It was fast, really fast, and the ride shook us hard, making us feel like frail rag dolls being waved around by an angry brat.

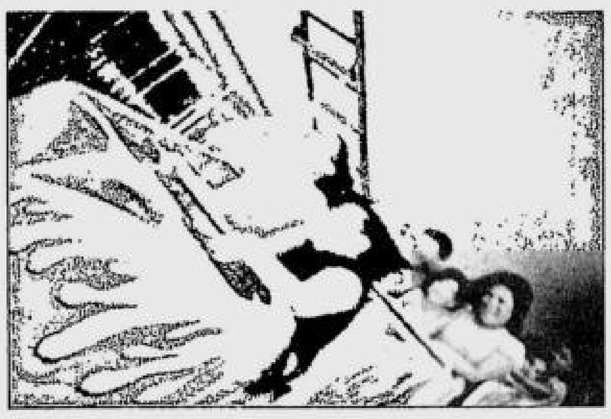
At the end of the ride, our bodies were aching, we all felt weak and one of us had lost a phone.

We walked away from that *perya* with a ton of pictures and some temporary souvenirs—bruises from the crazy roller-coaster ride that taught us conquering our fear could be fun.

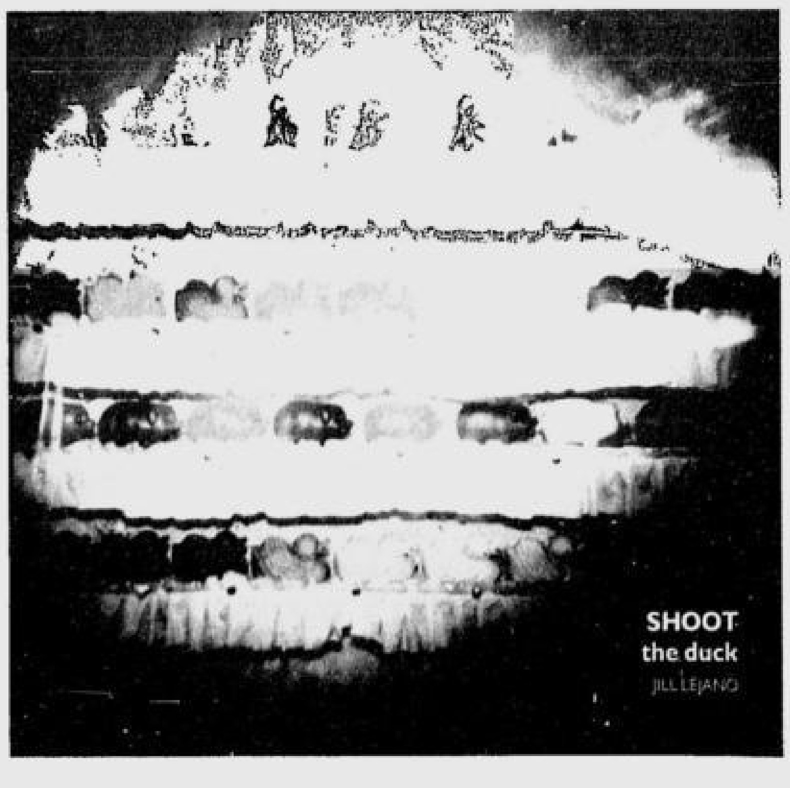
Pam Pastor



CRAZY CARNIVA [illegible] and the occasional pain [illegible]



TORTURE
on wheels
JAY LARA



SHOOT
the duck
JILL LEJANO

KILL the wall JILL LEJANO

RAFTING, captured the fisheye way RON CRUZ

ROLLIE VALENZUELA

ROLLIE VALENZUELA

Shooting the rapids

RUBY DE VERA

RUBY DE VERA

RON CRUZ

SCENES from a very wet morning RUBY DE VERA

From page D1

asks the first-timers in the group to raise their hands. He then says it's his first time to guide, too. You laugh nervously, telling yourself that he's kidding.

The guide demonstrates the different ways to paddle and you try to copy him. One of your rafting buddies starts laughing at the way you're holding your paddle.

Soon, you are asked to separate into two groups. You are grateful that you are in a raft with people who have gone white-water rafting before.

Stellar klutziness

Since there are just five of you, you end up sitting on the right side with only one other person. You are glad there is no one behind you. Otherwise, with your stellar klutziness, you would have ended up accidentally whacking that person on the head with the paddle.

You find yourself in the middle of Cagayan River, paddling away. Your guide Mau says the current appears strong that day and you will be hitting 14 rapids.

At that point, no trace of nervousness is left. You are actually excited.

You keep your foot constantly locked to make sure you don't fall out of the raft. Sure, the guide has taught you what to do in case you fell into the water (just lie back and spread your legs)—but you have no plans of giving that a shot.

Safe and extreme

Mau says each rapid has a safe and extreme side. If he feels your group is good enough at paddling, he will give you the option of taking the extreme side.

You are with a group of enthusiastic paddlers and you can proudly say you have taken the extreme side of every rapid except for one. After surviving each rapid, Mau would shout, "High five!" and you would knock paddles with the people with you, celebrating the fact that your raft did not tip over.

CAGAYAN River RUBY DE VERA

Your group is so hyper that when you're paddling between rapids, you actually make your raft spin to add to the excitement.

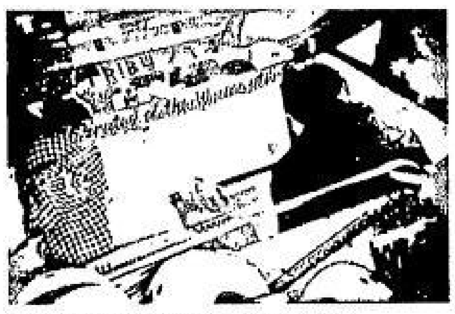
Because the strong current has made your raft move fast and you have time to spare, your guides decide it's time to give you a little treat. You are asked to get off the rafts. With a lot of difficulty, you slip and trip your way to what looks like a cave.

The current is even stronger there and you have to form a line and hold on to the people beside you. Mau is there to guide you, asking you to lie back, spread your legs and let the current carry you out of the cave.

They call it "riding the rapids," you call it "getting river water into your nose and mouth and not caring because you are having too much fun."

The graduation rock

Soon, you're back on the raft, ready to hit the last two rapids. After the last one, Mau says you are headed to the Graduation Rock. That's a rock where people who've survived the rapids can climb and leap off.



ON THE long and bumpy road JAY LARA

JAY LARA'S leap of faith JILL LEJANO

Strangely, you feel a strong urge to do the jump. When Mau asks who would want to come, you're one of only four people to raise their hands. You can feel the others' eyes on you, their faces covered with expressions of disbelief.

You, the sissy who dove into the middle of the raft to avoid falling into the water, would actually leap off a rock into the icy river?

Soon, you're grappling your way up the rock. There's another guide there and he tells you where to stand. From up there, the Graduation Rock no longer looks like a rock, it looks more like a cliff. And jumping seems extra-difficult because you have no steady footing, the rock's surface being too rough and jagged.

The guide tells you to get ready. He says you have to make sure you jump far to avoid hitting the rock. Your heart starts pounding as he starts counting. "One, two, th---"

Plunging to your death

"Wait wait wait wait!" you say, looking at your companions who are sitting in the rafts, their cameras ready to capture your fall.

You take a deep breath, telling yourself that it's fine, that even if you plunged to your own death at least you were able to ask your companions to tell your mom that you just wanted to see if you could do it.

The guide starts counting again, "One, two, three!"

"Waiiit!" you say again. Your companions are laughing at this point and you start wondering if the guide is about to just push you off the rock.

You take another deep breath and this time, when he counts, you fling yourself off the rock. Soon, you're falling falling falling, and you have only one thought in your head. "Where's the water? Where's the water?"

The answer comes soon—when the water welcomes your body.

High fives

You grab the rope and pull yourself towards the raft. You climb onboard again, your knees still shaking. You exchange high fives with the other people who have jumped and you start wondering if you can do it again.

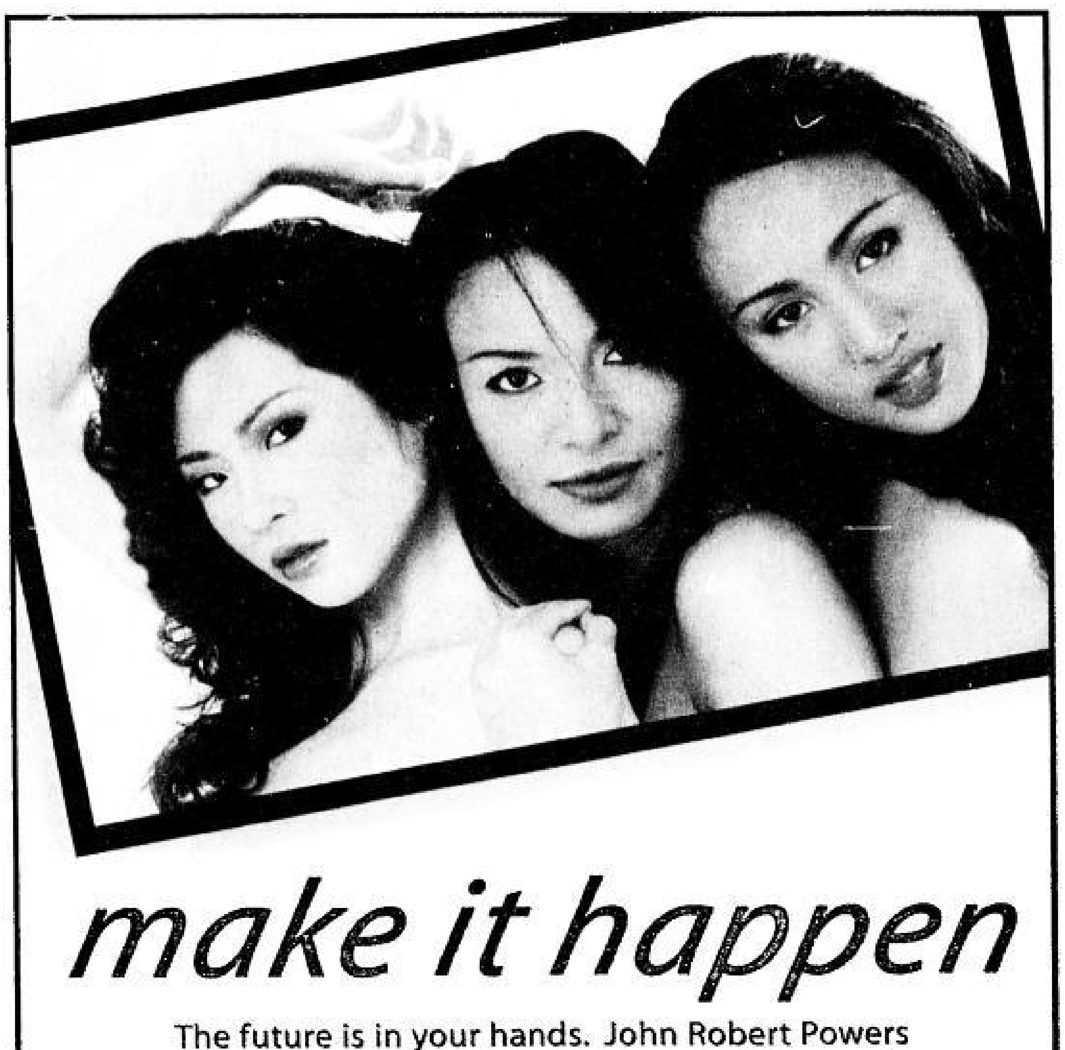
Soon you're paddling your way to the end of your adventure—and the end of the adventure signals the start of lunch.

You have a feast of *lechon*, chicken, prawns, fish, steamed rice and bananas waiting. The river of your great adventure now serves as a backdrop for a good meal.

On the way back to the city, heavy rain assaults the jeepney you're riding, but you don't mind. A little downpour is nothing, not when you're dreaming of shooting more rapids and leaping off many more rocks masquerading as mini-cliffs.

Have your own rapid adventure

White water rafting costs around P1,200 per person and that includes lunch (but sadly, not the *lechon*). Visit www.raftingcdo.com. Our guides came from Red Rafts River Tours.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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Televiewers: Stop Joey de Leon

THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION Review and Classification Board has warned "Eat Bulaga" co-host Joey de Leon against making any more "aggravating" statements against "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame. MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia said she issued the warning after receiving televiewers' complaints via text messages last week. *Marinel R. Cruz*

Why KC has come home

By Marinel R. Cruz

TAKE FIVE

KC CONCEPCION at the "Paris to Pinas" press con ROMY HOMILLADA

FOR HER GRADUATION GIFT, KC Concepcion asked her mom, Sharon Cuneta, for two things: a Cartier watch, and permission to pursue a career in show business.

"I want her to always be happy with what I do. I don't think I'll be comfortable knowing that she's upset," Mega's daughter said during the launch of her ABS-CBN TV special, "KC from Paris to Pinas."

KC recently finished a BA in International Corporate Communications at the American University in Paris. She is back in the Philippines, she said, "To be of use to this industry and this country."

When you craved Filipino food in Paris, what did you eat?

I've been a pesco-vegetarian for six years now. That means I eat only seafood and vegetables. In Paris, I learned to make tuna *adobo* and bought vegetarian *kare-kare* from Filipinos there. Rice is the easiest thing to cook. I fry it with garlic.

When you felt homesick, what did you do?

From Paris, it's easy to travel to other European countries by train. So, whenever I needed to cheer myself up or see other sights, my friends and I take the train.

What's your favorite place in Paris?

There were cafés that I went to when I wanted to be alone. There are also very beautiful gardens there—very quiet, relaxing. You will see some of them on the show.

Were you alone a lot?

Yes. Paris is a good place for thinking. But I have friends there and we did all sorts of things together.

Do you think it was easy for your mom to let you study abroad?

Of course she had apprehensions, as any mother would. We don't have relatives in Paris—but that was one of the reasons I wanted to study there.

Aside from being independent, what other things did you learn that you can now apply to your life here?

To always explore. To always try to learn new things about other countries. I realized that we're too culturally isolated. We have a lot to learn about our neighbors, whether it's about fashion or politics.

When you're away, what do you miss about the country? When you're here, what do you miss about living abroad?

I miss the laughter, which is very much part of our culture. *Sobrang masayahin tayo. Lahat kasi dinadaan sa biro.*

When I'm here, I miss my independence. And I don't always have people around me, so there's time to reflect.

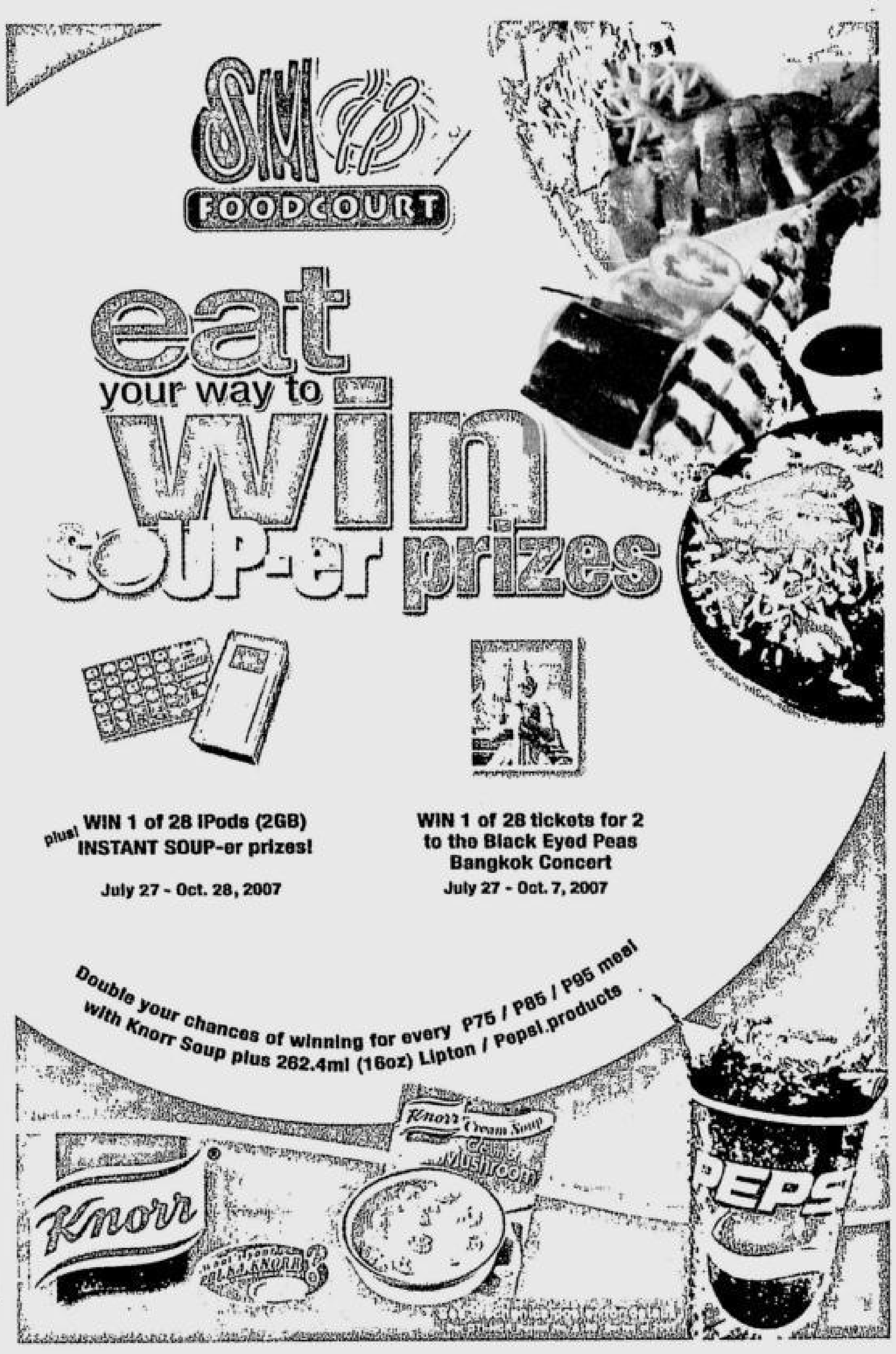
Was your dad (former actor Gabby Concepcion) at your graduation ceremony?

No, although he wanted to come. He promised he'd visit Paris with me someday.

> 'To be of use to this industry and this country'—with mom Mega's permission

DID YOU KNOW…

DALLAS—ACTOR PETER FONDA is auctioning off some of his memorabilia from "Easy Rider," including the American flag taken from the back of the jacket he wore throughout the film. Fonda was producer, co-writer and co-star of the groundbreaking 1969 movie. The flag has an estimated value of $50,000. *AP*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Fall Out Boy here for shows

By Pocholo Concepcion

RECENT MTV VIDEO Award-winning band Fall Out Boy is arriving in Manila today for two shows at the Araneta Coliseum.

Both concerts, for tomorrow and Friday, are sold out. Tickets went fast online via the MTV Philippines website.

Why is this young American band so hot?

Formed in Chicago in 2001, the group—Patrick Stump (lead vocals, rhythm guitar, composer), Pete Wentz (bass guitar, backup vocals, lyricist), Joe Trohman (lead guitar), and Andy Hurley (drums)—draws its musical energy from punk rock.

Combined with Stump's earnest singing of Wentz's irony-drenched lyrics, FOB bursts with an intensity that speaks directly to local fans, most probably in their college years.

The band first attracted attention in the US two years ago with the release of its major label debut album, "From Under the Cork Tree," which went double platinum. But FOB's fame became more pronounced when

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'Sopranos' win top Emmys

DAVID Chase, "The Sopranos" creator and producer, with two Emmys: "It was all about the cast." REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—US MOB DRAMA "THE Sopranos" said its final farewells when it picked up the top award from the 59th annual Emmy awards in Los Angeles on Sunday at television's equivalent of the Oscars.

The groundbreaking HBO series, which ended in June after an eight-year run, took home the awards for Outstanding Drama, Best Writing and Directing, but failed to score any prizes in the acting categories.

In the comedy awards, NBC's "30 Rock," set in the offices of a New York television studio, picked up the top prize. Acting awards were shared by Ricky Gervais ("Extras") and America Ferrera ("Ugly Betty").

Sopranos creator David Chase, accepting the Best Drama award, said: "The best thing about this has been working with this cast. I couldn't have done it by myself, it seems like I did, but I didn't. This amazing cast is really what it comes down to."

Stealing from the mob

James Spader took the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama award for his role as a quirky attorney in "Boston Legal," edging out James Gandolfini, who had been tipped for his role as Mafia boss Tony Soprano.

"I feel like I just stole a pile of money from the mob and they're all sitting right over there," Spader said as he took his trophy. Hugh Laurie had also been tipped for the award for his role as a cranky doctor in "House."

"The Sopranos" had missed the top prize five times in the past, winning the winged statuette just once before, in 2004.

JAMES Spader REUTERS

TINA Fey REUTERS

JAMES Gandolfini reaches over to kiss his girlfriend Deborah Lin after "Sopranos" was declared top winner. REUTERS

Other shows competing for the top award were ABC hospital drama "Grey's Anatomy," law firm series "Boston Legal," also from ABC, Fox's popular hospital drama "House" and NBC's science fiction series "Heroes."

Two-time Oscar winner Sally Field took home Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama and her third Emmy for the series "Brothers & Sisters."

A more open field

The top comedy award was more of an open field, with strong contenders in spoof workplace documentary "The Office," which won last year, and "Ugly Betty," about a smart but unattractive woman working at a fashion magazine.

But it was "30 Rock" that took home the top prize.

"We have the best cast and crew in all of television and ... I want to thank every parent, child, spouse and gay partner of every person that works on our show," said creator and lead actress Tina Fey.

The show also beat out strong challenges by HBO's winning "Entourage" and "Two and a Half Men."

Fey and "Desperate Housewives" actress Felicity Huffman lost out to America Ferrera.

"It is truly an amazing, wonderful thing that happens when your dreams come true," Ferrera told the star-studded gala at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium.

Ricky Gervais won Best Comedy Actor for his "Extras," in a surprise win.

The biggest cheer

The biggest cheer of the evening went to former vice president and now environmental campaigner Al Gore, accepting an award for his Current TV—a cable channel based on viewer-created content.

"We are trying to open up the medium so that viewers can help to make television and join the conversation of democracy and reclaim American democracy by talking about the choices we have to make," Gore said.

Legendary crooner Tony Bennett also picked up three awards, including Best Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program.

Historical HBO special "Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee" won Outstanding Made for Television Movie. *AFP*

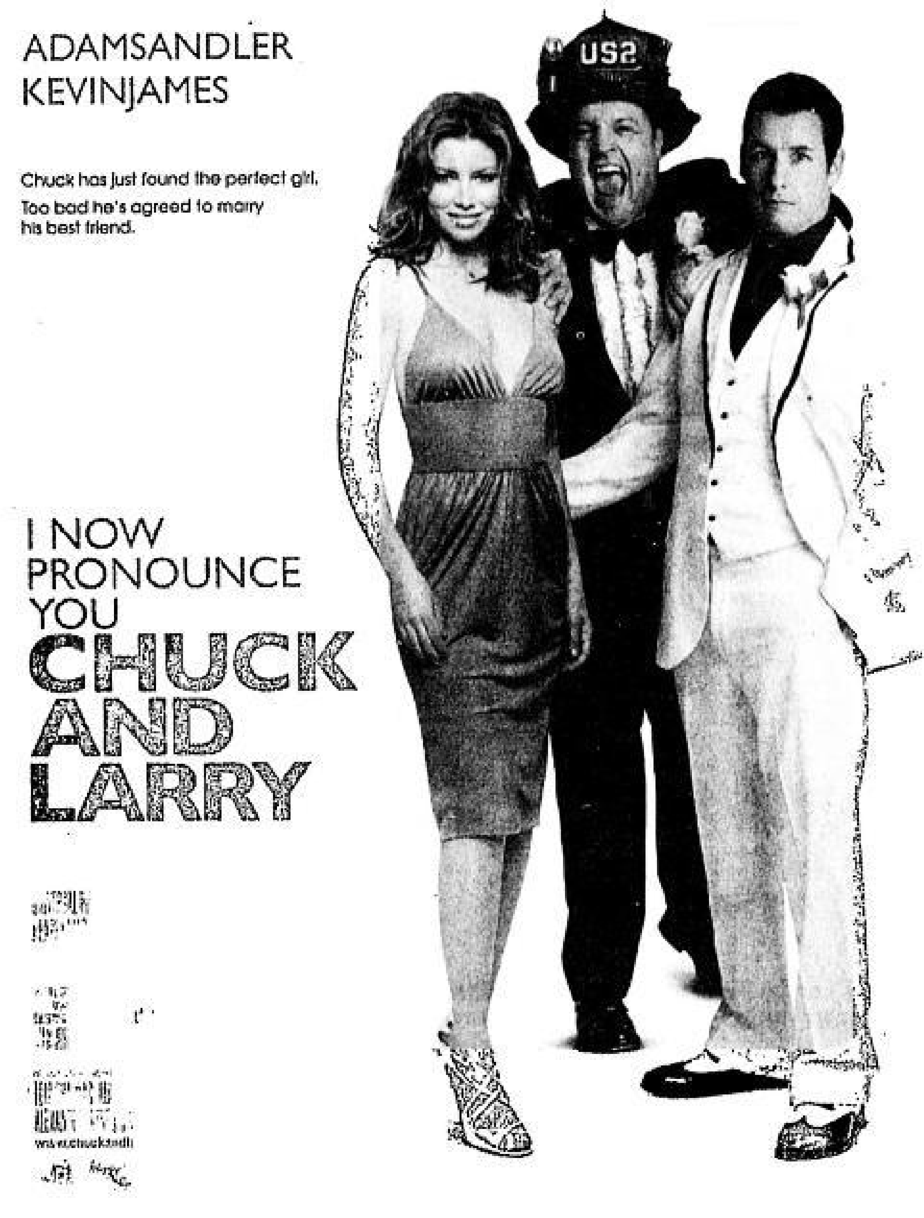
WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

Top 10 movies at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning September 14

The Brave One, Warner Bros. Pictures

TW	LW	Title	Gross	WR
1	☆	The Brave One	$ 14.0 mln	1
2	1	3:10 to Yuma	$ 9.2 mln	2
3	☆	Mr. Woodcock	$ 9.1 mln	1
4	☆	Dragon Wars	$ 5.4 mln	1
5	3	Superbad	$ 5.2 mln	5
6	2	Halloween	$ 5.0 mln	3
7	5	The Bourne Ultimatum	$ 4.2 mln	7
8	6	Balls of Fury	$ 3.3 mln	3
9	7	Rush Hour 3	$ 3.3 mln	6
10	8	Mr. Bean's Holiday	$ 2.7 mln	4

This Week, Last Week — Weeks in Release
☆ New release
Based on studio estimates compiled on Sunday
REUTERS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MTRCB R-13

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② BRATZ SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
③ UNDERDOG MTRCB GP
THE BRAVE ONE MTCB R-13
④ SHOOT 'EM UP SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00pm
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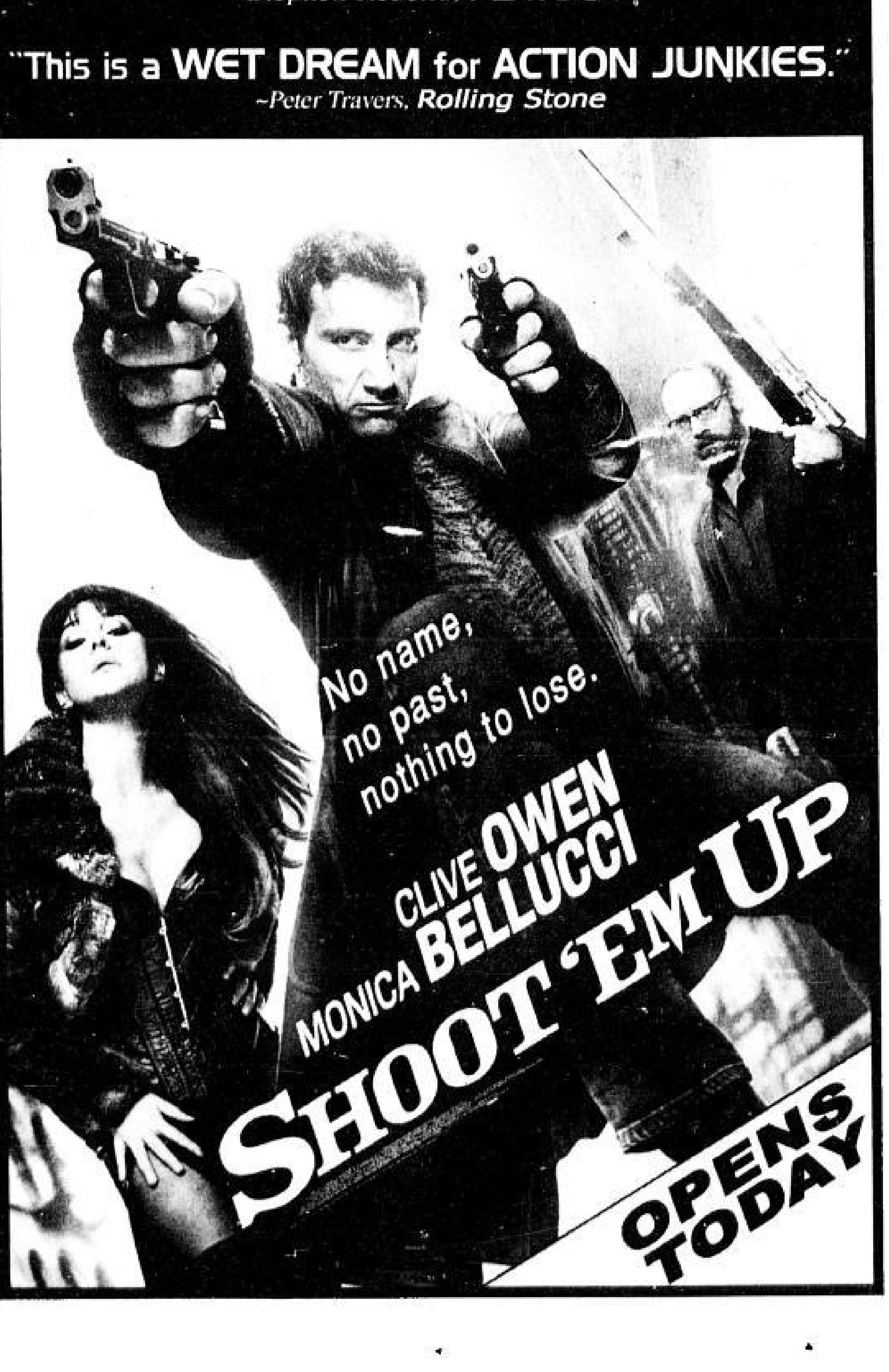
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 HOST
CINEMA 2 ROGUE ASSASSIN //THE BRAVE ONE R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 SHOOT EM UP
CINEMA 4 THE BRATZ GP
CINEMA 5 CHUCK & LARRY R-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM

September 22, 2007	Jett Pangan, Michael De Mesa, Ricky Davao	8:00 PM
September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8:00 PM
October 08 & 09, 2007	"Alamat" Stageplay	9:00 A.M 1:00 & 5:30 P.M
October 12 & 13, 2007	Apo Hiking Society	8:00 PM

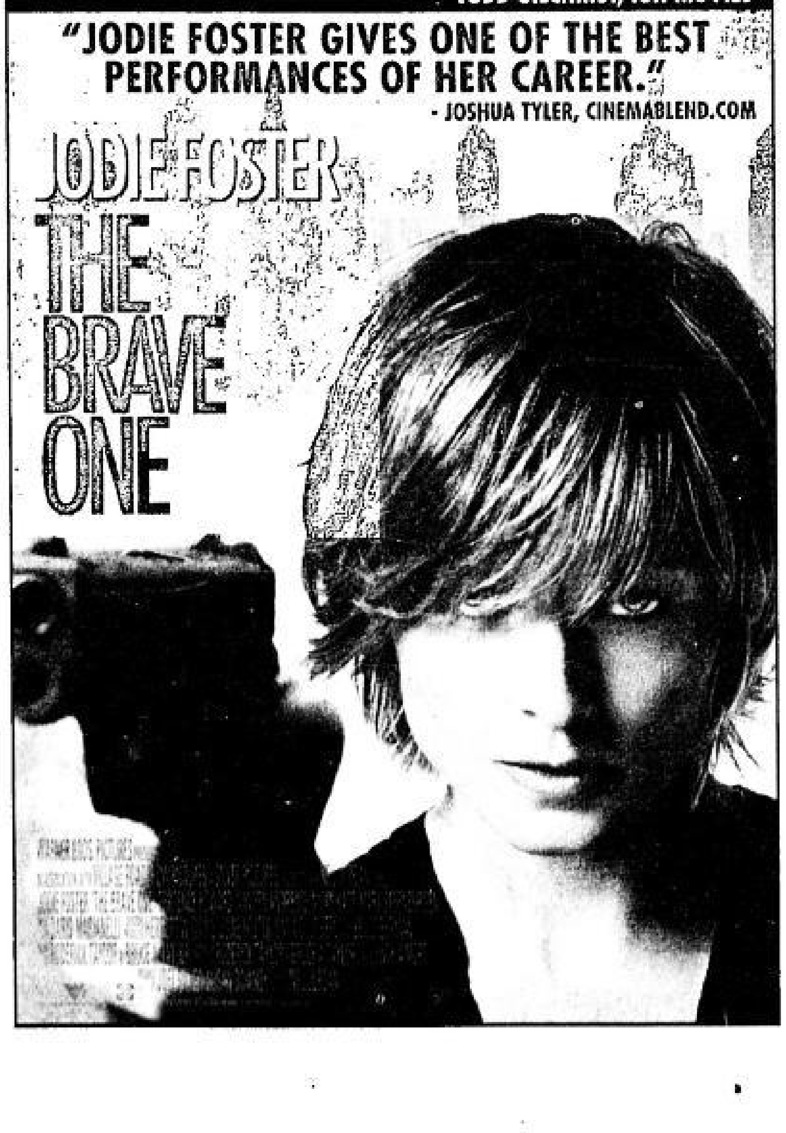
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Sept. 21, 28, 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
Sep. 26, 27 Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116



"Some of this stuff is so out there YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!" ~Pete Hammond, MAXIM
"This NEW BREED of action thriller HITS THE BULL'S EYE." ~Stephen Rebello, PLAYBOY
"This is a WET DREAM for ACTION JUNKIES." ~Peter Travers, Rolling Stone



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MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YRS. OLD AND ABOVE
"SMART, WELL-ACTED, ENGAGING THRILLER" - TODD GILCHRIST, IGN MOVIES
"JODIE FOSTER GIVES ONE OF THE BEST PERFORMANCES OF HER CAREER." - JOSHUA TYLER, CINEMABLEND.COM

OPENING THIS WEEK

From page E6

school girls. John Anderson of Variety says "most of the characters seem to be medicated."

The Host

Stars Song Kang-ho, Ko A-sung, Bae Doo-na, Scott Wilson

Directed by Bong Joon-ho

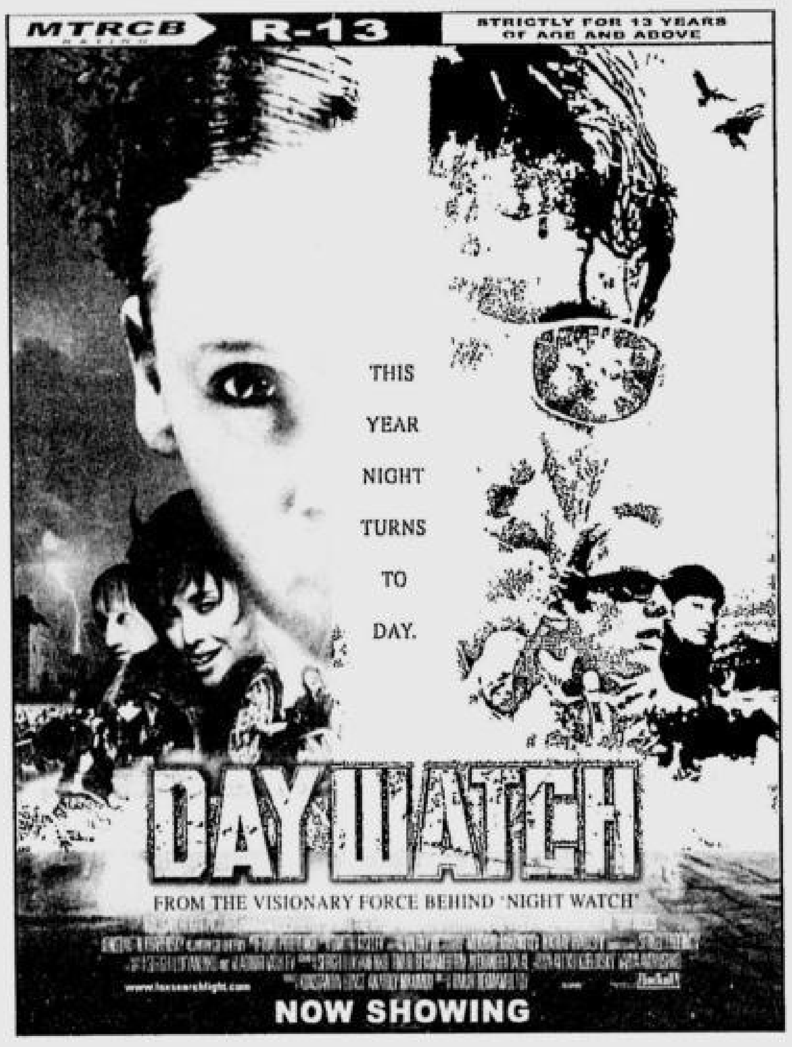
A hit in South Korea, about how a US military base creates a river monster with toxic wastes. Kevin Crust of Los Angeles Times commends its "subversive streak."

Joshua

Stars Sam Rockwell, Vera Farmiga, Jacob Kogan, Dallas Roberts

Directed by George Ratliff

Screened at Sundance, this thriller tracks a rich family's slow descent into madness—as caused by a demon child. Teresa Budasi of Chicago Sun-Times asserts that it's "not only lovely to look at; it's also intriguing." Exclusively at Ayala Malls.


MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

THIS YEAR NIGHT TURNS TO DAY.

DAY WATCH

FROM THE VISIONARY FORCE BEHIND 'NIGHT WATCH'

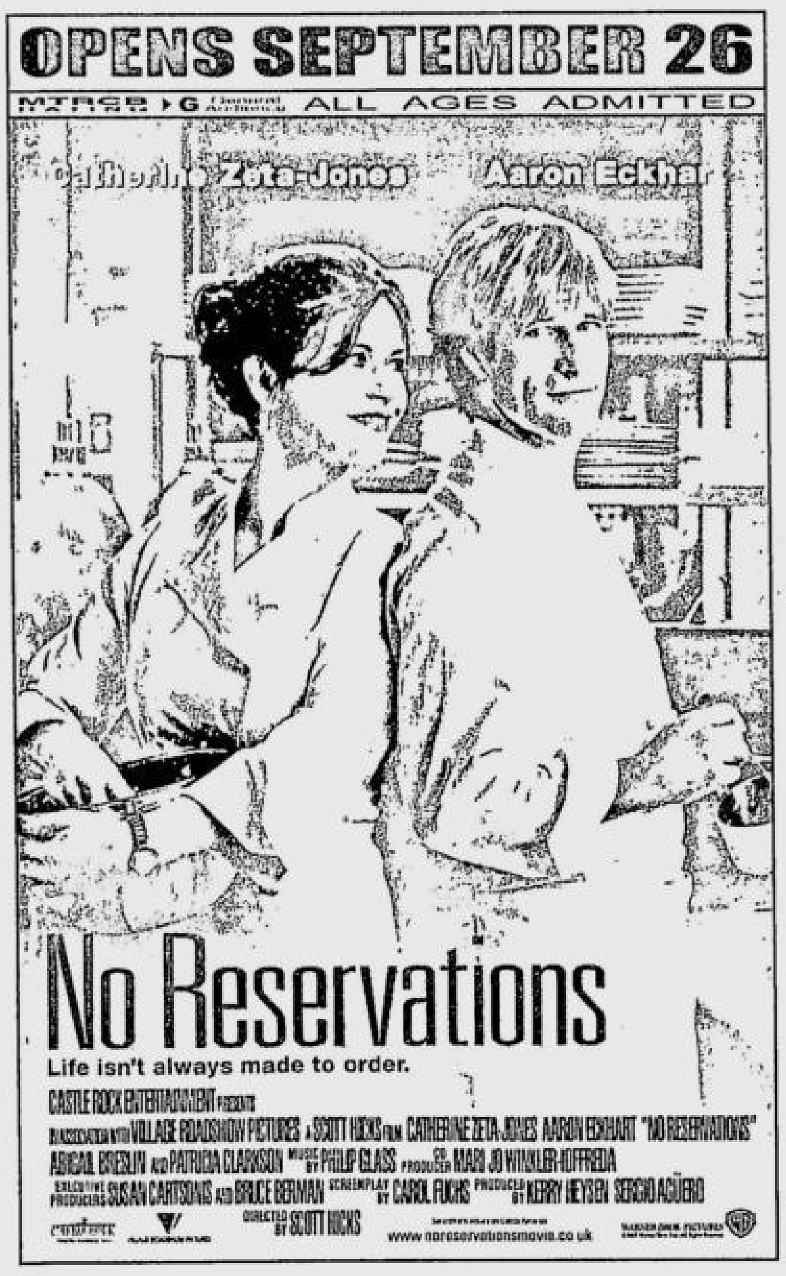
NOW SHOWING

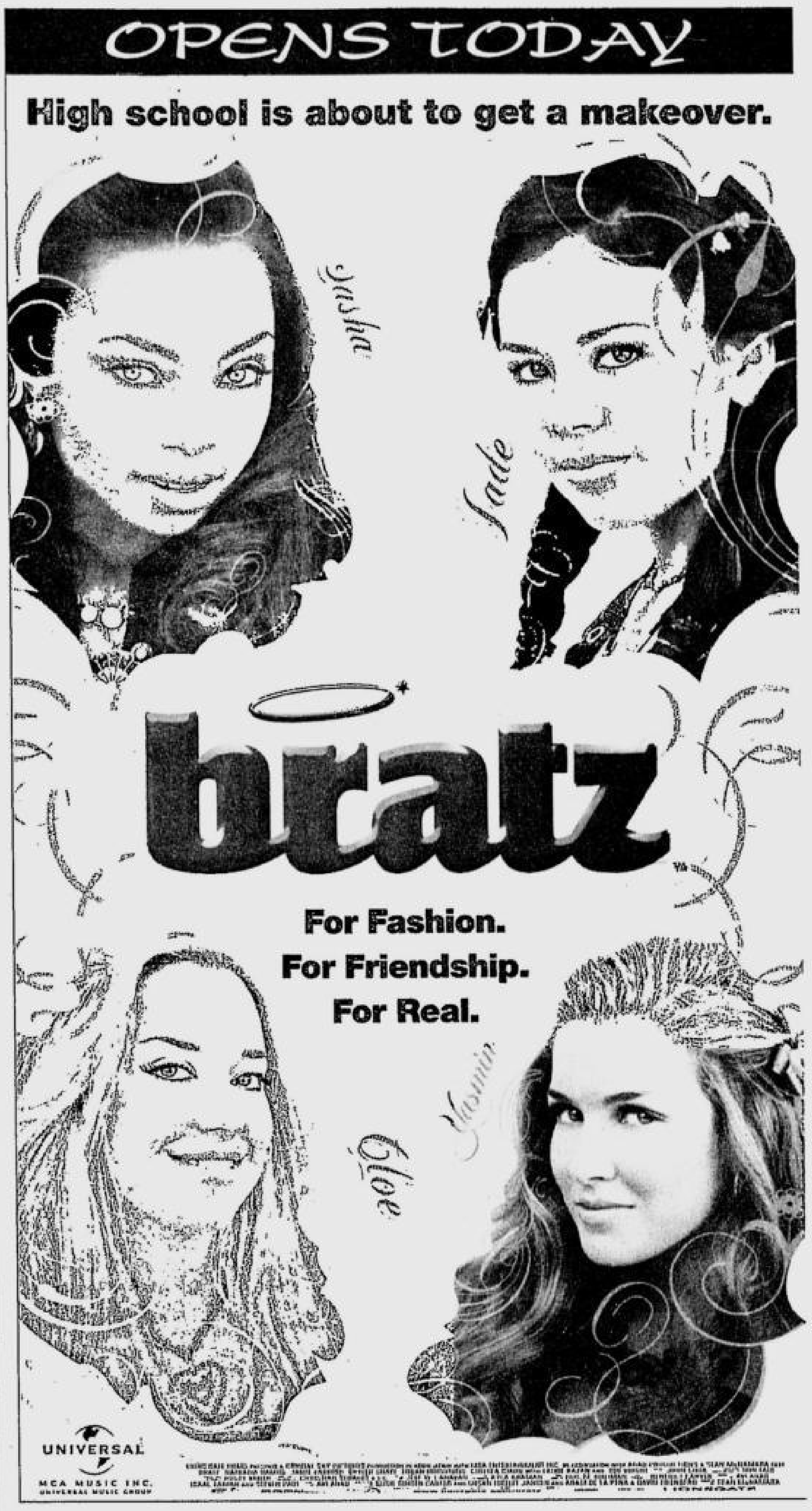
Eastwood City
The home of
the bloomfields
Catch them LIVE!
every Wednesday / 8:00 PM
Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION
Watch them play their hit single "Ale" and more from their self-titled debut album, as well as hits from the golden era of the 50's & 60's.
MAGIC 89.9
Eastwood City

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

PACQUIAO VS BARRERA II
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	SHOOT 'EM UP 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	
2	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY 1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 R-13	
3	BRATZ 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35	
4	UNDERDOG 4:25, 6:35 G	WAR: ROGUE ASSASSIN 8:35, 11:00 R-13


OPENS SEPTEMBER 26
MTRCB RATING G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
Catherine Zeta-Jones Aaron Eckhart
No Reservations
Life isn't always made to order.
CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES A SCOTT HICKS FILM CATHERINE ZETA-JONES AARON ECKHART "NO RESERVATIONS" ABIGAIL BRESLIN AND PATRICIA CLARKSON MUSIC BY PHILIP GLASS CO-PRODUCER MARI JO WINKLER-IOFFREDA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SUSAN CARTSONIS AND BRUCE BERMAN SCREENPLAY BY CAROL FUCHS PRODUCED BY KERRY HEYSEN SERGIO AGÜERO DIRECTED BY SCOTT HICKS
www.noreservationsmovie.co.uk


OPENS TODAY
High school is about to get a makeover.
bratz
For Fashion.
For Friendship.
For Real.
UNIVERSAL
MCA MUSIC INC.
UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

OPENS SEPT. 26
We have witnessed the BEGINNING...
We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
Now we face EXTINCTION.
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 (DOLBY)	CHUCK & LARRY
2 (DOLBY)	BRATZ
3 (DOLBY)	SHOOT THEM UP
4 (DOLBY)	ROGUE ASSASIN

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	UNDERDOG THE BRAVE ONE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	ROGUE ASSASIN
2	SHOOT THEM UP
3	CHUCK & LARRY
4	THE BRAVE ONE

starmall EDSA-SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

3	CHUCK & LARRY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	HOST
5	PLEASE CALL

metropolis star cinema

www.clickitheocity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504295, 5433994

1	CHUCK & LARRY
2	ROGUE ASSASIN
3	SHOOT THEM UP
4	I KNOW WHO KILL ME

THEATRES

1	DAY WATCH
2	UNDERDOG
3	1408

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660 5271

1	NANCY DREW
2	1408
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1	ROGUE ASSASIN
2	SHOOT THEM UP
3	I KNOW WHO KILL ME
4	THE BRAVE ONE
5	CHUCK & LARRY
6	UNDERDOG
7	
8	1408
9	BRATZ
10	HOST

Blue Wave

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	THE BRAVE ONE
2 (DOLBY)	SHOOT THEM UP
3 (DOLBY)	CHUCK & LARRY
4 (DOLBY)	RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	HOST
5	SHOOT THEM UP

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PLEASE CALL
2	
3	
4	

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	SHOOT THEM UP
2	ROGUE ASSASIN
3	CHUCK & LARRY

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	DISTURBIA
2	DAY WATCH

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	DAY WATCH
2	NANCY DREW
3	DISTURBIA
4	ROGUE ASSASIN

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE INVASION
2	SKINWALKERS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C. 5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	SHOOT THEM UP
2 (DOLBY)	CHUCK & LARRY
3 (DOLBY)	BRATZ
4 (DOLBY)	ROGUE ASSASIN

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	DAY WATCH
2	SKINWALKERS
3 (DOLBY)	UNDERDOG
4	

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	RESERVED
2 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	UNDERDOG
2	RISE
3 (DOLBY)	LAST LEGION

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	1408
2	THE INVASION
3 (DOLBY)	UNDERDOG
4	SKINWALKERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	SINKING JAPAN
2	UNDERDOG
3 (DOLBY)	SKINWALKERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1	UNDERDOG
2	1408

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	PLEASE CALL
2	

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	PLEASE CALL
2	
3	
4	

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	DAY WATCH
2	PLEASE CALL
3	BLIND DATING
4	SKINWALKERS
5	PLEASE CALL

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

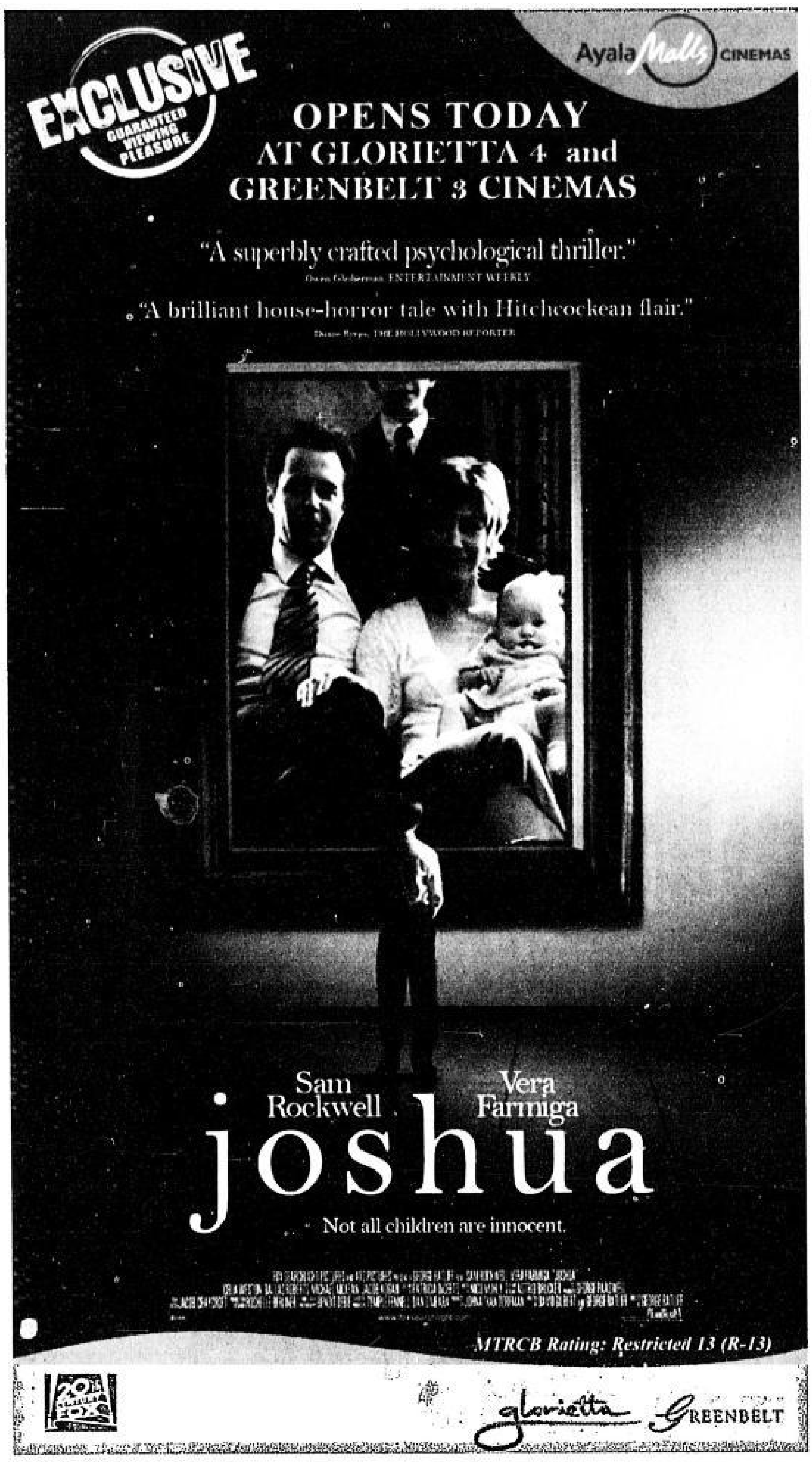
1	SKINWALKERS
2	1408
3	DISTURBIA
4	CHOPSUEY

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	PLEASE CALL
2	

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE


Ayala Malls CINEMAS
EXCLUSIVE
GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
OPENS TODAY
AT GLORIETTA 4 and
GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
"A superbly crafted psychological thriller."
Owen Gleiberman ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
"A brilliant house-horror tale with Hitchcockean flair."
Duane Byrge, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
Sam Rockwell
Vera Farmiga
joshua
Not all children are innocent.
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
glorietta
GREENBELT

Fall Out Boy . . .

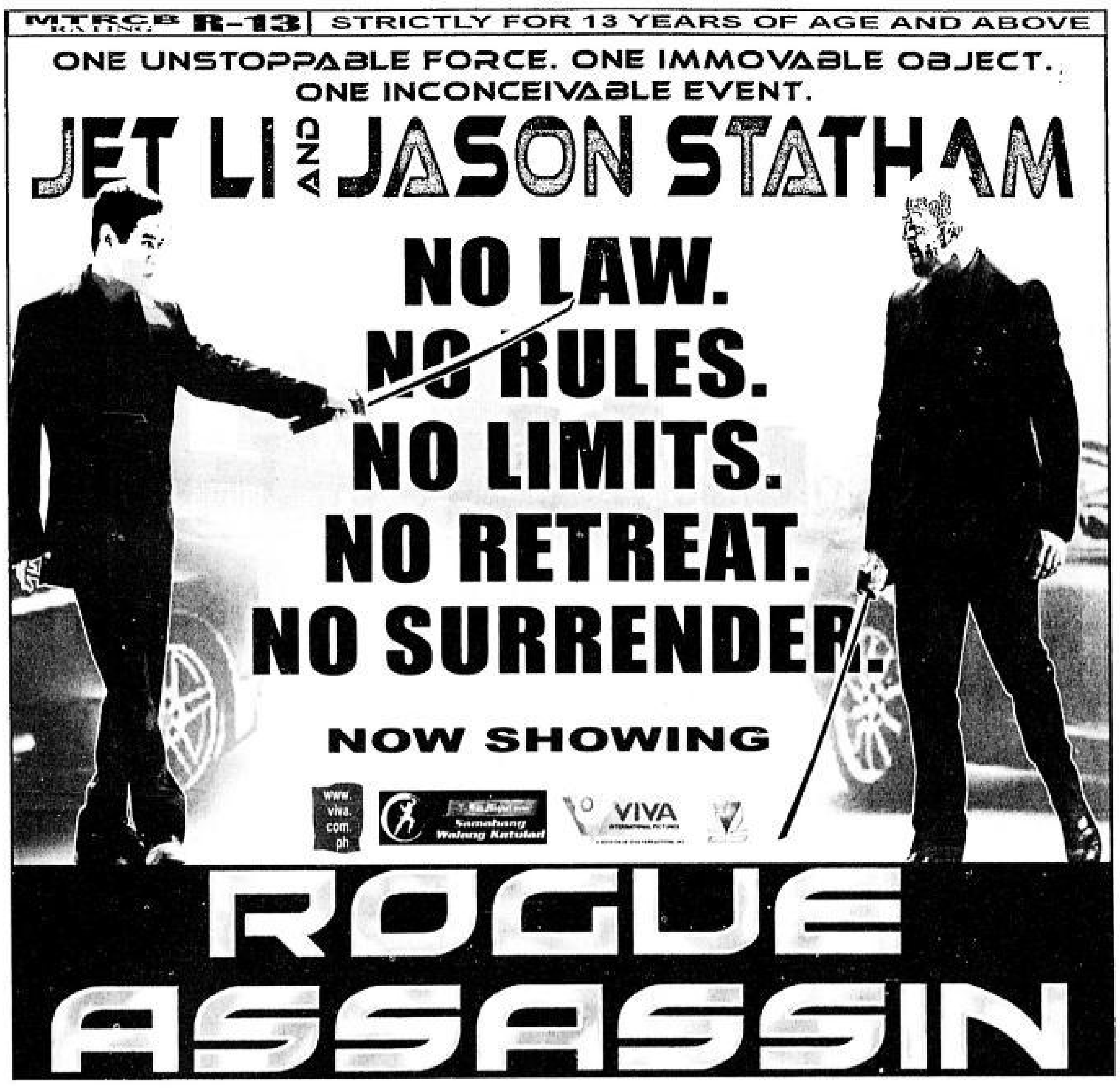
From page E1

MTV put the video of "Thnks fr th Mmrs" on heavy rotation.

The video features a cast of chimpanzees, orangutans and monkeys playing the song, interspersed with the band's own performance. It was criticized by animal rights groups for showing the chimps in sexual acts—although drummer Hurley is vegan and has done promotions for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

More than its engaging recorded sound, FOB should be exciting on stage, judging from the videos. It was also one of the younger artists who played at the Live Earth concerts. The RP dates are part of a world tour.

INNER sleeve of FOB's "Infinity on High" CD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ROGUE ASSASSIN

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GLORIETTA 1	HOST	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	ROGUE ASSASIN	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME			
GLORIETTA 4	BRATZ	ROGUE ASSASIN	THX SHOOT THEM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	JOSHUA	UNDERDOG	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	THE BRAVE ONE
GREENBELT 1	SHOOT THEM UP	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY					
GREENBELT 3	THX SHOOT THEM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS	JOSHUA GUARANTEED SEATS	ROGUE ASSASIN GUARANTEED SEATS	BRATZ GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	SHOOT THEM UP	BRATZ	THE BRAVE ONE	ROGUE ASSASIN		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	NANCY DREW	ROGUE ASSASIN	THE LAST LEGION			
MARKET! MARKET!	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	HOST	ROGUE ASSASIN	BRATZ	SHOOT THEM UP		
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	ROGUE ASSASIN	HOST	BRATZ GUARANTEED SEATS	SHOOT THEM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	UNDERDOG	THE BRAVE ONE	THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS

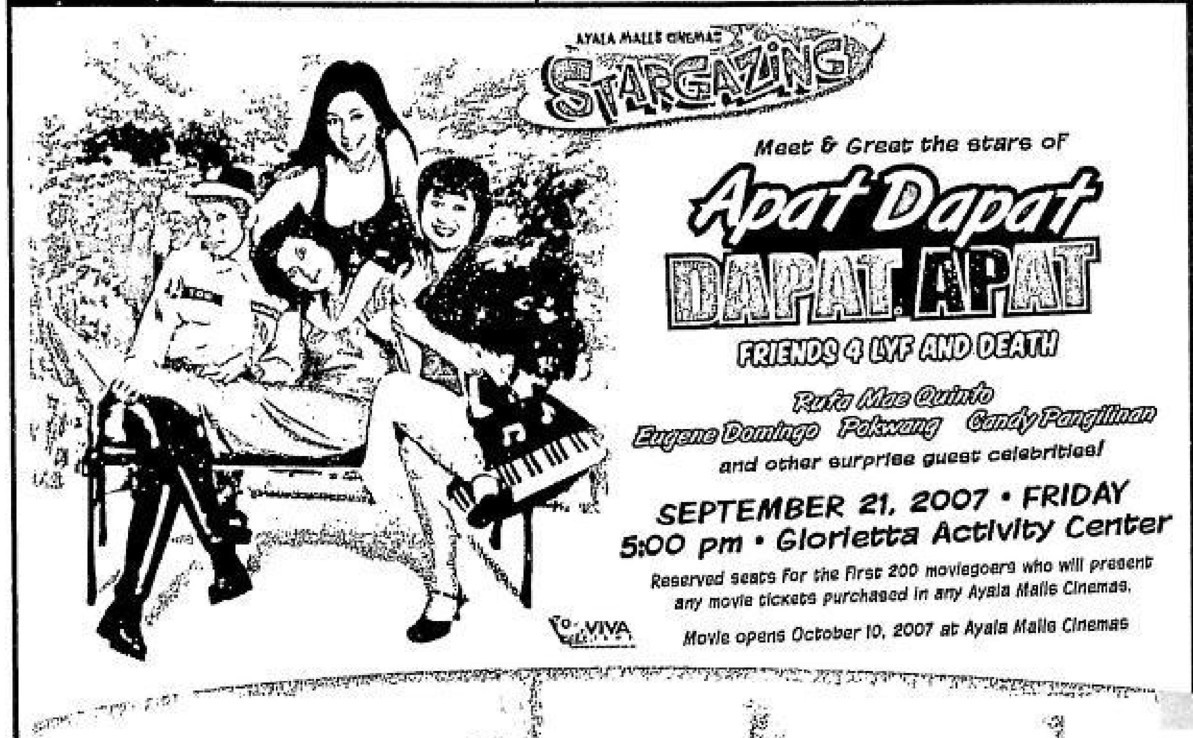
AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:

Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	Martin Nievera's Album Launch September 19, 2007; 6 PM at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek Presents: Collection of Kate Torralba September 12 to 23, 2007 at Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Philippine Robotics September 17 to 19, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Health & Beauty Outlet Sale September 17 to 20, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Pioneers of Philippine Art: Transnationalism in the Late 19th - 20th century June 15, 2007 to January 6, 2008 at the 3rd Floor Gallery For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2


AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
STARGAZING
Meet & Greet the stars of
Apat Dapat
DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH
Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan
and other surprise guest celebrities!
SEPTEMBER 21, 2007 • FRIDAY
5:00 pm • Glorietta Activity Center
Reserved seats for the first 200 moviegoers who will present any movie tickets purchased in any Ayala Malls Cinemas.
Movie opens October 10, 2007 at Ayala Malls Cinemas
VIVA

Catch American Idol finalist Elliott Yamin in a live concert at the Ayala Malls!
TriNoma
Activity Center
September 21
7:00pm
Glorietta
Activity Center
September 22
7:00pm
Market! Market!
Activity Center
September 23
6:00pm
Ayala Center Cebu
On Stage
September 26
6:00pm
Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
September 28
6:30pm
ABC
myx

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

OVERHEARD

HELEN MIRREN, accepting her award for "Prime Suspect: The Final Act" on Emmys night: "You Americans are a wonderfully generous people. You are a lot of things as well—some good, some bad."
AP

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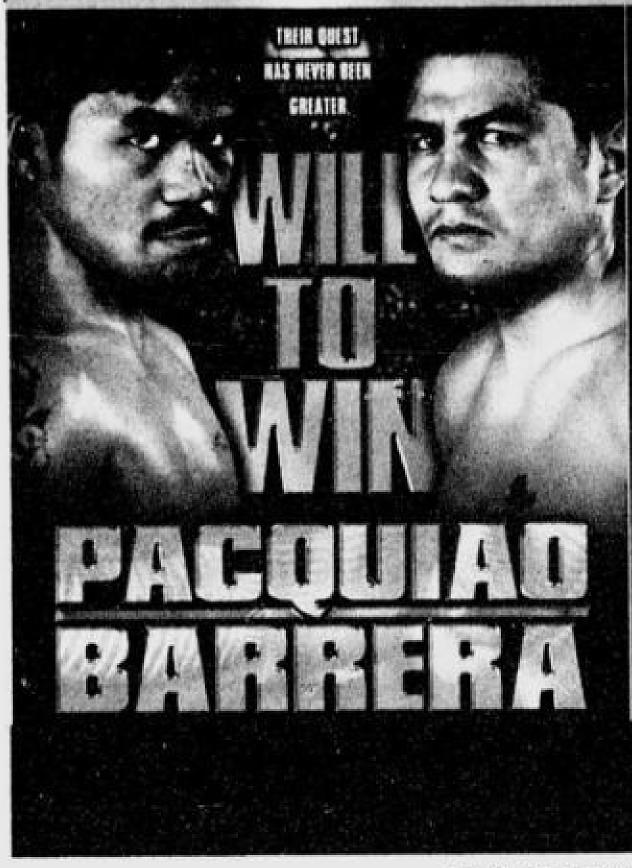
SPORTSTIME


THEIR QUEST HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.
WILL TO WIN
PACQUIAO
BARRERA

Watch our country's very own Manny Pacquiao collide with Marco Antonio Barrera in a 12-round super featherweight fight on the big screen

October 7 (Sunday)
8:00 a.m.

Live via satellite with no commercial breaks from Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
Don't miss the larger-than-life fistfight action showing in all SM Cinemas nationwide

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P 500 (Reserved Seats)
P 400 (Guaranteed Seats)

Price adjustments and seating status may vary per branch Visit www.smcinema.com or your favorite SM Cinema branch for more information

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SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATER
DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250
12:30 PM • 3:30PM • 5:00 PM • 6:30 PM • 8:00PM
T-REX Admission Price: P200
2:00 PM
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 SHOOT EM' UP
5 BRATZ
6 THE HOST
PREMIERE CINEMA
ROGUE ASSASSIN
CENTERSTAGE
UNDERDOG
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.
-THE- PODIUM
CINEMA 1
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
CINEMA 2
SHOOT EM' UP
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 GANDHI,, MY FATHER
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 BRATZ
5 SHOOT EM' UP
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 UNDERDOG
9 THE HOST
10 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
11 THE BRAVE ONE
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 I KNOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 SHOOT EM' UP
5 BRATZ
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 THE HOST
8 A LOVE STORY
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 1408
11 EVAN ALMIGHTY
12 UNDERDOG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 SHOOT EM' UP
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 1408
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 A LOVE STORY
9 RESERVED
10 EVAN ALMIGHTY
11 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12 BRATZ

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
BRATZ
4 SHOOT EM' UP
5 A LOVE STORY
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 1408
9 1408
10 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 1408
4 BRATZ
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6 UNDERDOG

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 BRATZ
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
6 UNDERDOG
7 THE HOST
8 THE BRAVE ONE
9 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 BRATZ
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 UNDERDOG
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 1408
8 THE HOST
9 A LOVE STORY
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 DISTURBIA
12 THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 DISTURBIA
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 UNDERDOG

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 DAYWATCH
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 UNDERDOG
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 BRATZ

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 NANCY DREW
3 DAYWATCH
4 UNDERDOG
5 THE LAST LEGION
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 1408
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 SINKING OF JAPAN

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 1408
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 THE LAST LEGION
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 DAYWATCH
4 UNDERDOG
5 NANCY DREW
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 A LOVE STORY
2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4 1408

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 UNDERDOG
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 DAYWATCH
2 DISTURBIA
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 NANCY DREW
4 INVASION
5 LAST LEGION
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 NANCY DREW
2 DISTURBIA
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 INVASION
2 RESERVED
3 SKINWALKERS
4 UNDERDOG
5 DISTURBIA
6 1408
7 RESERVED
8 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 OSS 177
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 NANCY DREW
5 DISTURBIA
6 DON'T LOOK BACK
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 SKINWALKERS
2 INVASION
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 UNDERDOG

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GALLERIA Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 130 632-8116
1 THE BRAVE ONE • THX
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM
4 BRATZ
5 SHOOT 'EM UP
6 HOST
7 UNDERDOG
8 LALKE SA PAROLA
9 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Ligaw Liham

It's one of the 10 finalists in the 2007 Cinemalaya Digital Film Festival. Stars Karylle and introduces John Michael Lee this film also features Bacolod's finest actors John Gilbert Arceo and George Macainan. Ligaw Liham was shot entirely in Negros.

showing on SEPTEMBER 12 to 20
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

ERMITA Ticket Price: P110 / P120
1 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 HOST
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 LALAKE SA PAROLA
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6 THE BRAVE ONE
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 BRATZ
UNDERDOG

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OCTOBER 7, 2007 SUNDAY • 8 AM (MANILA TIME)

METRO EAST Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 UNDEERDOG
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6 HOST
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 BRATZ
8 RUSH HOUR 3

NOVALICHES Ticket Price: P90 / P100 936-3231 / 936-3229-30
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT 'EM UP
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG
5 THE BRAVE ONE

PIONEER Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-6378
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2 SHOOT 'EM UP
3 BRATZ
4 HOST

STA. ROSA Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907
1 DISTURBIA
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 DAYWATCH
4 DON'T LOOK BACK

LIPA Ticket Price: P 90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 DISTURBIA
2 1408
3 SKINWALKERS
4 FOSTER CHILD

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 DISTURBIA
3 NANCY DREW
4 1408

IMUS Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 UNDERDOG

ANGELES Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348
1 DISTURBIA
2 NANCY DREW
3 DAYWATCH
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

TARLAC
1 THE INVASION
2 THE LAST LEGION / UNDERDOG
3 DAYWATCH
1408

STARMILLS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927
1 DISTURBIA
2 NANCY DREW
3 DAYWATCH
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 THE LAST LEGION
6 RUSH HOUR 3

BACOLOD Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459
1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 THE INVASION
4 THE LAST KING of SCOTLAND
5 SKINWALKERS / HAIRSPRAY
6 THE LAST LEGION

ILOILO Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070
1 UNDERDOG
2 DISTURBIA
3 SKINWALKERS
4 1408
5 THE LAST LEGION
6 THE WAITRESS

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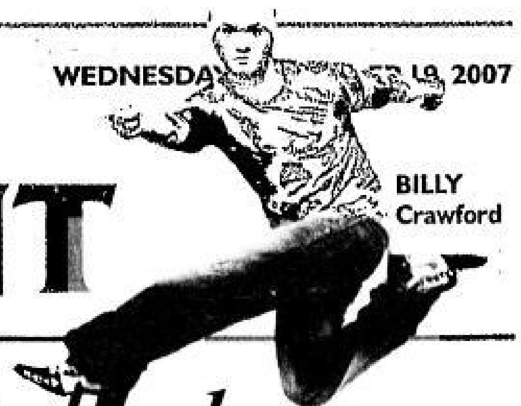

BILLY Crawford

OPENING THIS WEEK

Gulong

Stars Barbara Perez, Robert Arevalo, Gary Valenciano, Lou Veloso

Directed by Sockie Fernandez

An entry in this year's Cinemalaya independent film festival, this summer reverie follows a trio of boys as they try to raise enough money to buy a bicycle. Cinemalaya juror Lito Zulueta comments: "[It] may have a tendency to be ... overly optimistic ... but [it] delivers as much as it moves." Opens Sept. 22 at IndieSine Robinsons Galleria

Shoot 'Em Up

Stars Clive Owen, Monica Bellucci, Paul Giamatti, Greg Bryk

Directed by Michael Davis

An enigmatic loner saves a hooker and a baby from a maniacal killer. Peter Travers of Rolling Stone calls it "a wet dream for action junkies." Frank Scheck of Hollywood Reporter: "It's all very silly, but also undeniably fun."

I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry

Stars Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Jessica Biel, Steve Buscemi

Directed by Dennis Dugan

Two macho firemen pretend to be a gay couple to illegally secure pension benefits. David Ansen of Newsweek complains: "The premise is high concept of a low order ... not a movie I'd recommend to friends."

Bratz

Stars Nathalia Ramos, Skyler Shaye, Janel Parrish, Jon Voight

Directed by Sean McNamara

Based on a line of high-fashion dolls and a TV cartoon, about a gang of high-

OPENING/ E3

Top of the weekend's talk shows

By the Inquirer and Inquirer.net Entertainment Staff

RUSHES

RUSTOM Padilla with his Gawad Urian trophy ROMY HOMILLADA

LAST WEEKEND'S TALK SHOWS WERE packed, people. Here are the highlights, for those who missed them. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

- Alfred Vargas on girlfriend LJ Reyes' reported decision to go sexy: "*Ipapaubaya ko na sa kanya 'yon. Basta kung ano ang desisyon niya, susuportahan ko lang. 'Yun naman ang* role *ko bilang lalake 'di ba?* Confident *ako na 'di niya ipu*-push to the limit *na* sobra-sobra. Sexy *siya; dapat makita ng mundo 'yon.*" (*Parang wala yata siyang* choice.)

KC-Lino-Billy

- KC Concepcion on the prospect of working with her rumored boyfriend, TV-film director Lino Cayetano: "I'm open to working with admirable directors. I think he's one of them."
- Lino's response: "*Gusto ko napaka-galing na* director *ang makaka-pares niya, hindi muna ako.*"
- Billy Crawford on KC's denial that they were ever together (he earlier said on a radio program that KC was a "good kisser"): "If I offended KC in any way, I apologize. I haven't spoken to her lately [so] I don't want to comment so much [on that]. I'd rather speak to her in person." (What about her mom?)
- Sunshine Dizon on Angelu de Leon's revelation that a former partner is now linked to the "Impostora" star: "Does that matter? We're not friends." (*Oo nga naman.*)
- Martin Nievera on having invited Jomari Yllana, by text, to dinner: "He didn't reply ... I think maybe he's a little bit ... upset."
- Martin's ex-wife Pops Fernandez, currently Jom's girlfriend, on the incident: "I know there was absolutely no malice intended. I think he did not get the text right away. So by the time *na naka-pangatlong* text *na, doon lang yata niya nakita*. Pero I don't know the real story. I don't know exactly what happened then. I wasn't here." (That's quite enough.)
- Jom speaks out on the "no-reply" issue: "I have no reason to get upset. *Kahit hindi ako nag*-reply *sa* text ... *nirerespeto ko lang 'yung pagiging magulang nila.* So *labas ako doon sa problema nila. Wala namang ibang makaka*-solve *noon kundi sila.* Wish *ko rin na maayos ang dapat maayos. Pero labas ako doon.*" (Don't ask him again.)

'No, I didn't!'

- Martin Jickain on rumors resulting from his separation from wife Aiko Melendez: "*Hindi po totoong nagka*-casino *o nagsusugal ako. Hindi rin totoong* I'm into drugs. *Hindi ako nambababae. Hindi rin totoong nilulustay ko ang pera ni* Aiko. *Hindi rin totoo yung ninakaw ko yung mga* Louis Vuitton bags *niya at* flat TV. *Aanhin ko naman po ang* flat TV, *hihigaan ko?*" (There are a few things we can suggest ...)

AIKO Melendez and Martin Jickain MANDY NAVASERO

- Aiko's manager Wyngard Tracy on the Aiko-Martin split: "*Nalungkot ako, siyempre. Ninong ako sa kasal nila. Si Aiko minsan kasi, madaling umibig. Ang sinabi ko lang, 'Alam niyo [ba] ang pinapasok niyo?* Do you really love each other?' *Madalas [kasi]* ... physical attraction. *Tapos pag nagkakilala ng tunay na ugali, ayan na.*" (Voice of reason. Listen, y'all!)
- Rustom Padilla on how winning the Urian Best Actor award helped him win his family back: "After *nu'ng* awards night, *si* Robin *inaya ako mag*-dinner. So *nagdi*-dinner *kami, tinawagan niya si* Mama. *Binigay niya sa akin* ['*yung* phone]."
- Former actress Eva Cariño on coping with Rustom's revelation that he was gay: "*Nu'ng una ... parang hindi ko matanggap. Nu'ng huling nagkita [kami]* ... after *mga* 30 minutes, *nawala na lang siyang bigla. Naisip ko, siguro talagang lumalayo siya.*"
- Rustom on why he moved away: "*Sabi ko papatunayan ko na* I will be a good son, regardless *kung ano ako ... darating ang panahon na maipagmamalaki din [nila] ako.*"

Carnal instinct

- Snooky Serna on filing an annulment case against husband Nino Mendoza: "At that point in [my life], *magulo ang isip ko.* I pushed through with the marriage out of my own carnal instinct." (Information overload!)
- Willie Revillame's message to daughter Meryll Soriano after giving birth and winning the Urian Best Supporting Actress award: "*Hindi ka na lang basta-basta ordinaryong babae. Kung ano man ang nangyari sa amin ng mama mo, sana hindi ganoon ang maging buhay mo.*"

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SHOOT EM UP 1:40/4:20/7:00/9:50
HOST 12:55/3:45/6:35/9:25
UNDERDOG 2:05/4:30/6:55/9:20
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
BRATZ 12:30/2:45/5:00/7:15/9:30
THE BRAVE ONE 1:20/4:10/7:00/9:50
SHOOT EM UP 1:00/3:40/6:20/9:00

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HOST 12:10/3:00/5:50/8:40
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 12:05/2:15/4:25/6:35/8:45

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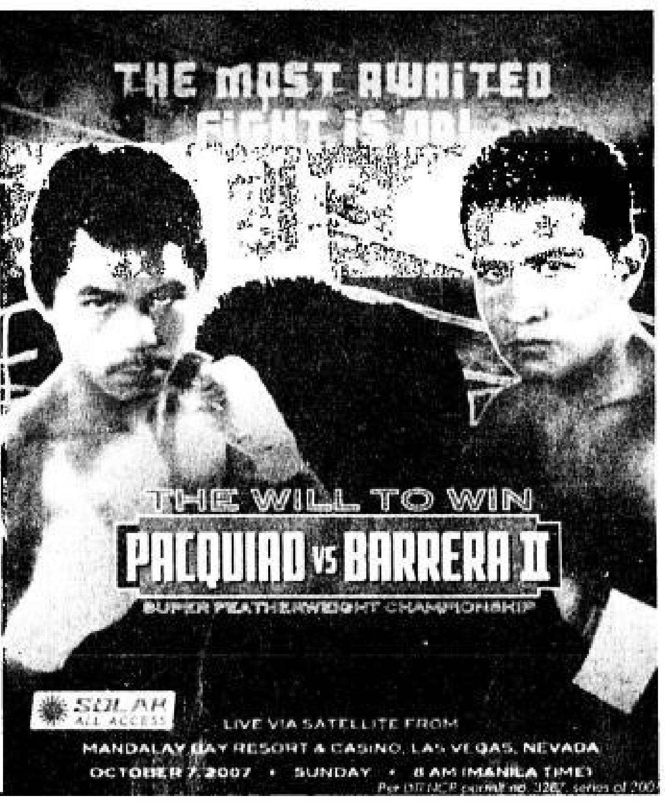

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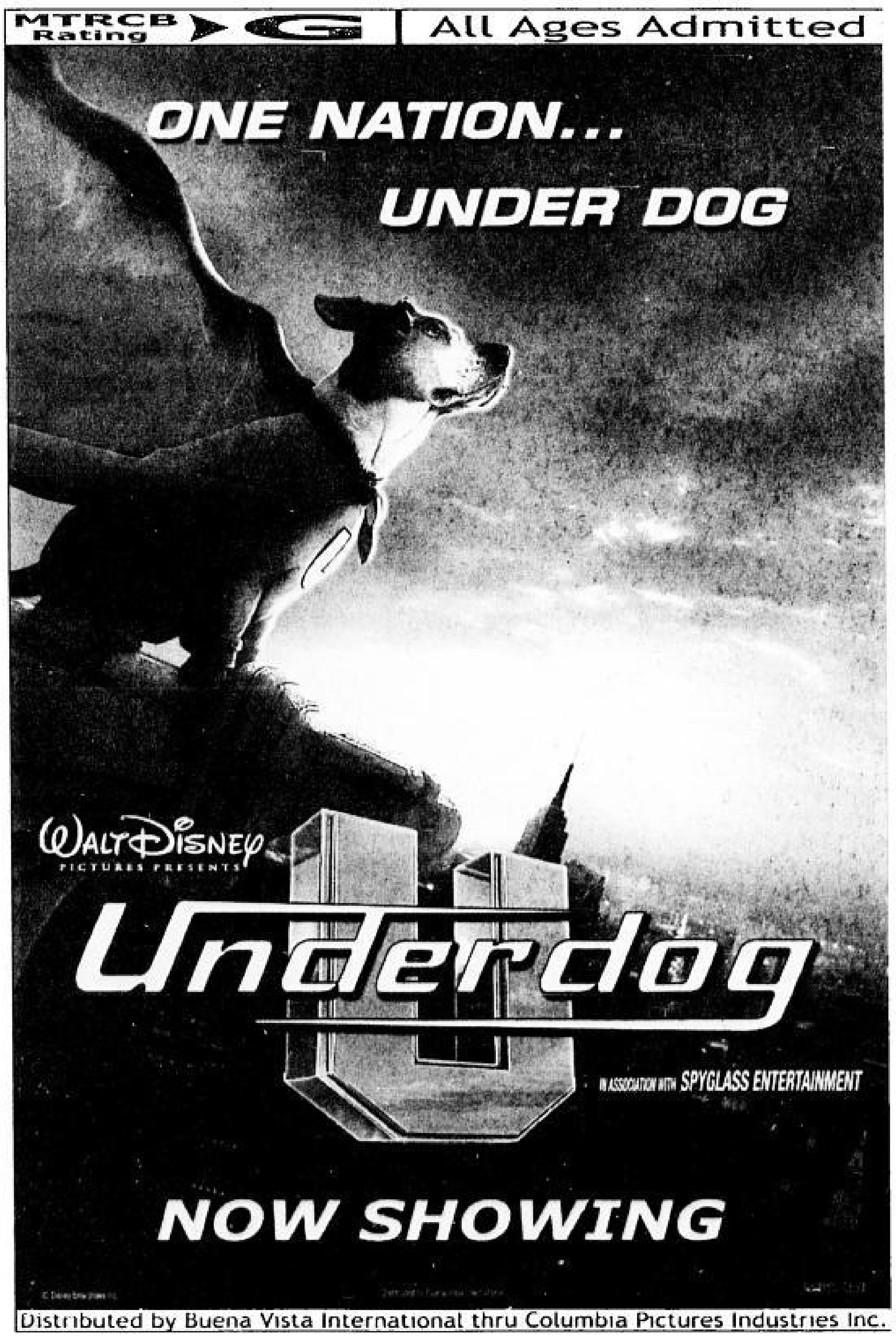

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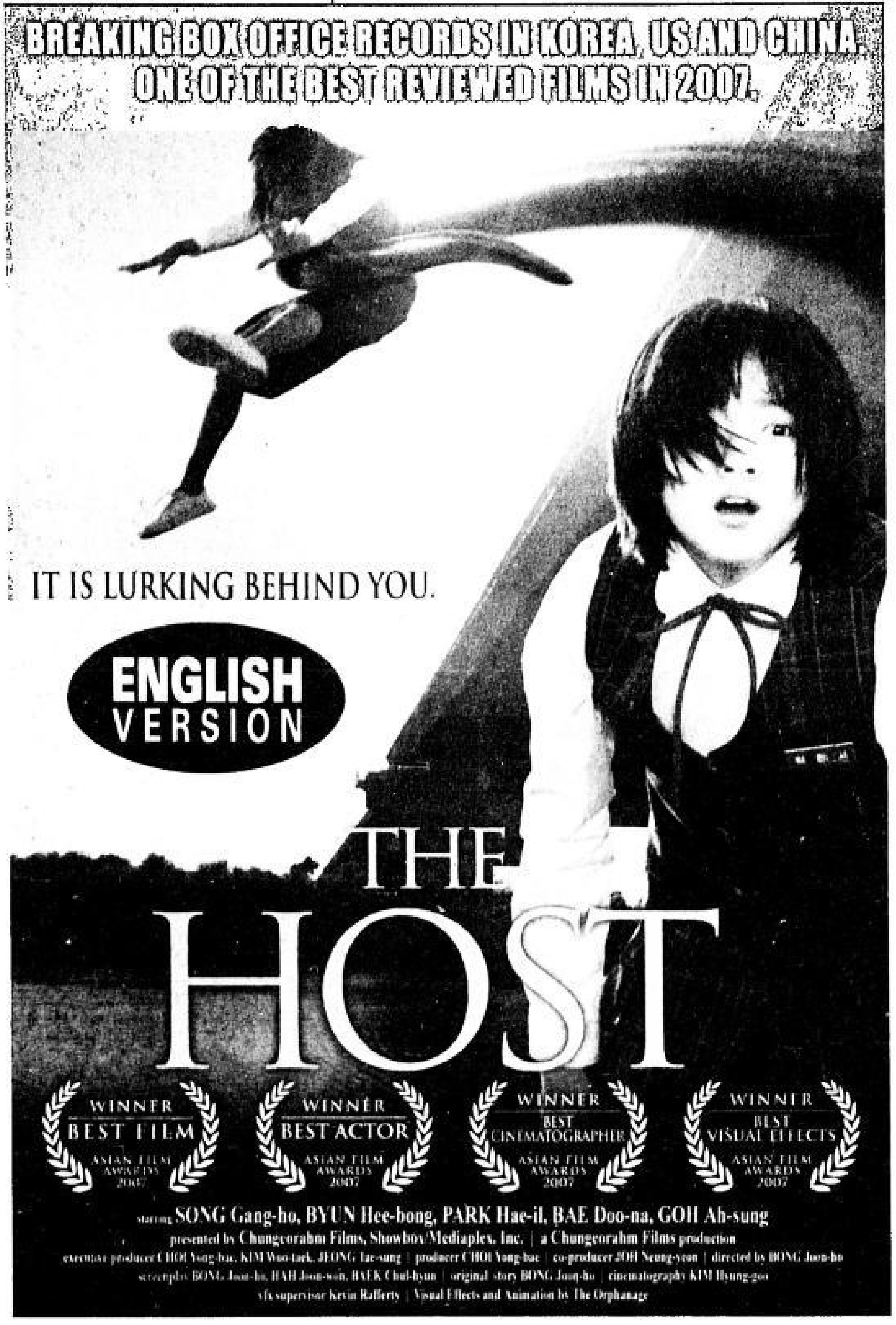

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